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'Hospital fee hike, removal of outpatient services must be considered.' PAGE 2
Buckingham files sealed voluminous medical records. PAGE 3

OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Now that he has resigned, do you think former AG Edward T. Buckingham will still return to the CNMI to face criminal charges filed against him?

Let your voice be heard!
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INSIDE

NATION

Mitt Romney accused President Barack Obama in person and in TV advertising Tuesday of cutting Medicare "to pay for Obamacare," launching a strong counterattack to Democratic charges that he and running mate Paul Ryan would radically remake the popular health care program that serves tens of millions of seniors. ➤ PAGE 14

ASIA

A second tropical storm in as many weeks battered the northern Philippines on Wednesday, killing at least two people, as forecasters warned that the still-reeling capital could see more flooding. ➤ PAGE 15

'Sole-source' power deal could easily cost CNMI over $200M in 25 years

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Harsh words for Fitial, Buckingham for 'secret' contract
» Senate, House panels poised to block implementation until full details known

While the power purchase agreement's "guaranteed price" is $190.8 million for 25 years, it could actually cost the CNMI way more than $200 million because taxpayers also have to pay for fuel, operations, and maintenance fee, among other things, even as Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and former attorney general Edward Buckingham are being criticized for keeping under wraps yet another "sole-source" contract.

See $200M on Page 4

RAINY, FOGGY DAY
With a foggy mountainside in the background, a lone pickup truck cruises Isa Drive Road or Back Road yesterday afternoon, but motorists at a nearby gasoline station said the up to 20-cents-a-gallon increase in gasoline prices made the day gloomier than it already is. A trough located south of the region has been dumping heavy rains the past days.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Who is Saipan Devt LLC?

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham signed off on a 25-year power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC but not much is known so far about this private company that will receive a "guaranteed" amount of $190.8 million from the CNMI.

Saipan Development LLC is a private limited liability company duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware.

CNMI agencies do not have records of this company,

See LLC on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
A price display at a Mobil service station in Kagman yesterday shows the latest gas prices following Tuesday night's up to 20-cents-a-gallon increase.

Saipan's regular gas now $5.10 a gallon after 20-cent hike

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Motorists got another costly surprise at the pump when Mobil Oil Mariana Islands increased gas prices by up to 20 cents a gallon on Tuesday night, exactly a week after a 15-cent hike.

Regular and super unleaded gasoline went up by

See GAS on Page 4

Local

TO MEET PAYROLL, OPERATIONS

'Hospital fee hike, removal of outpatient services must be considered'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board chair Joaquin Torres believes it's high time the public hospital collect a fair fee for services it provides to patients and consider scaling back outpatient services to reduce the corporation's expenditures while improving revenue and collections.

Torres said at this time when local government resources are scarce, there's no way the corporation can guarantee that payroll at the Commonwealth Health Center will not be delayed again and obligation to vendors will be fulfilled.

He pointed out that the crises at the public hospital is a result of the "under-funding" situation it has since Day 1 the corporation took over in November 2011.

From then then-Department of Public Health's annual budget of $38 million for Saipan alone, the corporation took over its management with barely $5 million in appropriation that covered payroll and operations not only of CHC but the Tinian and Rota health centers as well.

RELATED NEWS
Inos places CHC under state of emergency again. **PAGE 4**

Although the corporation receives reimbursement from the Medicare and Medicaid programs, the chairman describes these federal monies as "not enough" because of the lower local matching from the CNMI. In the case of the $5 million seed money, only over $200,000 is disbursed as biweekly allotment for the organization.

For Torres, the only immediate way the corporation can improve its present financial situation is to increase the fees collected from patients by updating the hospital's charge master. The charge master at CHC details each service codes and amounts billed to patient and this was last upgraded in 1982.

"In short, for many years, CHC has been providing almost free service to all patients and we need to do something now if we want to survive," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Health officials earlier disclosed that CHC has been implementing for 30 years, for example, a very low flat rate for confinement at the hospital's intensive care unit (ICU) which only charges $400 per patient per day. This amount is inclusive of all services and supplies. If actual rate will be used, a patient has to pay from $2,500 to $3,000 per night stay at the hospital.

Torres said that by also removing the outpatient clinics or services, this will reduce the expenditures of the corporation which can prioritize payroll and supplies.

"We can ask the private clinics to come in to cover for these outpatient services. With the present situation of the hospital, I think we should concentrate on the critical services [inpatient units]," he said, pointing out the need to sustain compliance with Medicare requirements.

The corporation has already enforced emergency workforce reduction that affected mostly personnel on non-essential units. It also combined some offices and eliminated others like the dental clinic. The corporation is also looking at suspending, if not terminating, the personnel's housing allowance.

The corporation was authorized by law to receive a $7-million line of credit from the Marianas Public Land Trust, but the loan has not been made available to date due to unsatisfied requirements. Before this line of credit, the corporation was first provided a $4.58-million line of credit by the same trust.

Torres acknowledged that once released to the corporation, the $7 million will help in meeting the immediate needs of the hospital such as payroll and supplies.

CHC staff get paid; but 3 clinics remain closed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the issuance of payroll yesterday to employees of the Commonwealth Health Center, several outpatient clinics remained closed due to other ongoing challenges at the public hospital.

Medical affairs director Dr. Jeremy Richards confirmed that three clinics would remain closed until further notice.

"I want to emphasize it's not really about payroll. This is about the need for the CNMI government to get serious about healthcare. Clinics closed because we were afraid that we would lose our ability to provide critical services, and we needed staff and providers to be available for the crisis," he told media yesterday.

At least three clinics—Family Care, Women's Clinic, and Children's Clinic—were closed since Tuesday noon after some physicians did not report for work resulting in the immediate transfer of available doctors to essential areas such as the emergency room unit.

The absence of some healthcare professionals was mainly due to delayed payroll last Friday and the continuing lack of support to the islands' healthcare system.

It was Tuesday night when the Executive Branch, through the Department of Finance, identified and transferred $800,000 to the corporation's account to finally meet payroll yesterday.

"It seems that the crisis has been temporarily been averted, and we can consider resuming clinics. However we must assess the safety and feasibility of providing care to all services, focusing on the most critical. The reason why we are in a situation where the smallest bumps and hiccups are spinning out into catastrophes, is because of chronic neglect, and the lack of critical systems a hospital needs in order to survive—of which I provided a short list to the CEO [Juan N. Babauta]," said Richards in an email yesterday.

According to the medical director, as always, services will be available as they can safely and feasibly provide them. But for now, he admitted not having a clear plan when to reopen some clinics.

Richards disclosed that if they have the doctors and nurses available in the ER, they can open up the adult clinics soon. But he admitted that he has yet to have a date on this.

For the outpatient mental health, Richards said this can resume by Monday, while the pediatrics unit maybe able to open on Friday, with coordination from nurses.

"If we are sure that we can sufficiently maintain critical services and expand to routine care, then it may happen sooner," he said.

According to Richards, they decided to open the women's

See CHC on Next Page

Buckingham files sealed voluminous medical records

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham has filed in the Superior Court under seal his voluminous medical records, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday from sources.

Attorney Michael Evangelista, counsel for Buckingham, confirmed that he indeed filed sealed documents. He refused to elaborate as they are sealed.

The medical records said to be consisting of over 80 pages are filed in support of Buckingham's motion to quash the $50,000 bench warrant issued for his arrest by Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman.

Gov. Benigno F. Fitial on Monday disclosed that Buckingham rescinded his original resignation "due to personal and medical reasons."

Buckingham cited family reasons in his first resignation.

Asked about Buckingham's motion to quash, Office of Public Auditor legal counsel George Hasselback said yesterday that he has yet to make a decision whether to oppose it or not.

Hasselback said there will be a hearing on that motion on Aug. 22 at 9am when more than likely OPA will be putting its position on the record.

"I have not made a decision on that one way or another yet," Hasselback said.

Buckingham, through counsel Evangelista, on Tuesday afternoon filed the motion to quash the bench warrant.

Evangelista said Buckingham made prior arrangements for the court to be informed of his availability via telephone for the Aug. 6 hearing and for the court's permission to appear telephonically at the hearing.

"Despite this, the court was neither informed nor asked for permission to allow Mr. Buckingham to appear telephonically," Evangelista said.

Wiseman issued the bench warrant for the arrest of Buckingham for his failure to appear at the hearing on Aug. 6.

An FBI special agent served Buckingham with the penal summons at the airport shortly after he and his wife left Saipan at 6am Delta flight to Narita, Japan last August 4.

OPA filed seven criminal misdemeanor charges against Buckingham.

The five charges were in connection with Buckingham's alleged hosting of a delegate candidate's party at Fitial's house in August 2010 and Buckingham's approval of a $400,000 sole-source ARRA management contract award in October 2010 to Michael Ada within days of stepping down as a Cabinet secretary.

The two charges—obstructing justice: interference with service of process, and misconduct in public office—were related to Buckingham's alleged use of police officers to escort him at the airport to avoid being served with penal summons between Aug. 3 and 4.

CHC

From Page 2

clinic—even without a doctor—because it has a nurse practitioner who can handle some outpatient services.

"Please be aware that clinic has always been open as available—particularly pediatrics and internal medicine. And you will note that none of the internal medicine department doctors have any available time to see outpatients," he said, adding that the present "crisis" at the hospital has already been predicted since February.

He also described the current situation at the public hospital as a "slow death by attrition."

Nursing director Leticia Reyes also confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that certain outpatient clinics remain closed until further notice. She emphasized that her department is collaborating with Richards on the issue. She said two of the four nurses re-assigned in inpatient units Tuesday went on personal leave yesterday until their clinics open.

Meanwhile, Reyes said that nurses were a bit relieved yesterday upon receiving their overdue payroll. But she also admitted that many are still worried on the fate of their next payroll.

According to Richards, he is not sure if the same delay in payroll will happen again next week.

"I will have no energy to do anything about it if it does. I'm worried that there is going to be a witch-hunt for the providers who stood their ground and refused to work without reimbursement, or who called in sick. That would pretty much do us in. Retaliation would probably kill the hospital," he added.

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Tasi Tours, marine sports operators disagree even on hearing date

Even on a hearing date, Tasi Tours and the five marine sports operators don't agree.

Tasi Tours counsel Rexford C. Kosack has stated that Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho offered two dates for the argument on the pending summary judgment motions.

In Tasi Tours' position on argument date, Kosack said they have conferred with counsel for the marine sports operators, but the parties were unable to reach agreement.

Therefore, Kosack said they requested that the argument be held on Oct. 16 at 9am as he will be off-island on Sept. 18.

Attorney Mark A. Scoggins, counsel for the marine sports operators, said they requested that the oral argument on their motion for summary judgment be held at the court's earliest possible convenience, and no later than the proposed date of Sept. 18.

Scoggins said with due respect to Kosack, his presence is not required for the oral argument hearing.

Scoggins said the Tasi Tours' opposition and cross-motion was signed by Kosack's co-counsel Glenn Jewell.

Scoggins said Jewell was present for the last hearing on the operators' motion for bond modification.

He added that attorney Douglas Daley, who also works at Kosack's law firm, may also be available and has been in court for most, if not all, of the hearings in this case.

The lawyer said as they have been arguing since this matter began, this case needs to be resolved quickly.

"By Sept. 18, 2012, petitioners motion will already have been pending for more than two months, and there is no reason to delay further by holding the hearing in October. Tasi Tours can be ably represented on Sept. 18, 2012," Scoggins added.

In his July 19 order, Camacho granted the operators' request to maintain the status quo on Managaha access until their lawsuit against DPL is decided on its merits.

Camacho, however, ordered the operators to post the $62,034 bond. He said the preliminary injunction shall take effect once the full bond is remitted to the court.

The five marine sports operators are Island Marine Sports Inc., Aquatic Marine Co. Inc. doing business as Amigo Aquatic Sports, Automarine Inc., Seahorse Inc., and BSEA Inc.

The marine sports operators are suing DPL to invalidate the department's rule promulgated on Dec. 13, 2011 and June 14, 2012 pertaining to Managaha access. Tasi Tours, which has exclusive contract with DPL over Managaha access, intervened in the case. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

Inos places CHC under state of emergency again

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos placed the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. under a state of emergency again on Tuesday, the same day he met with CHC, Finance, and Marianas Public Land Trust officials to help avert yet again a crisis at the hospital.

The emergency declaration allows for reprogramming of funds and suspension of statutory or regulatory provisions, including procurement rules.

The administration, through the Department of Finance, reprogrammed funds and transferred the remainder of the $5 million "seed" money for CHC on Tuesday, totaling some $800,000, to cover CHC's payroll due last Friday.

Without such infusion of funds from the central government, CHC wouldn't have been able to pay its employees yesterday and run the hospital, among other things.

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson said CHC should further work on its billing and collection so it doesn't have to be on crisis mode every payroll.

Inos, in his Executive Order 2012-09, said to ensure that the suspension of regulatory provisions does not lead to financial abuse, the emergency declaration incorporates the March 9, 2012 memorandum of understanding between CHC and Finance, Office of Management and Budget, and Office of the Attorney General.

In addition, any financial reports submitted by CHC pursuant to the MOU must be submitted with a certification of the person submitting them, stating that the reports are full and accurate under penalty of perjury, Inos said.

Besides CHC, the NMI Retirement Fund and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. are also under a state of emergency or under the governor's direct control. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

LLC

From Page 1

as of yesterday.

Based on a copy of a 41-page power purchase agreement that Fitial and Buckingham signed, Saipan Development LLC and the CNMI executed a Power Plant Development and Management Agreement dated March 27, 2012.

That was barely five days after Saipan Development LLC was incorporated in Delaware on March 22, 2012, based on the state's Division of Corporations records.

Based on the same development agreement, Saipan Development has agreed to build, operate, and own a power plant on Saipan, and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has agreed to accept electricity generated by the plant.

Saipan Development LLC's registered agent is Keystone Shipping, which is based also out of Delaware and Pennsylvania. Keystone Shipping's chief executive officer is Donald Kurz.

So far, the connection between Keystone Shipping and the CNMI is that Keystone operates Sergeant Matej Kocak Class Marine Preposition ships, four of which are located in Guam and/or Saipan.

Keystone also has deep connections with Shell Oil. Charles Kurz, Keystone founder, began his relationship with Shell Oil in 1909 soon after he entered the business world. The Keystone-Kurz Group has been carrying Shell cargo on their ships virtually on a continuous basis since 1939.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), chair of the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, said yesterday that the committee might find out more about Saipan Development LLC when his panel meets with CUC officials today.

GAS

From Page 1

20 cents a gallon, while diesel went up by 10 cents a gallon.

Regular unleaded gasoline is now $5.109 a gallon on Saipan, exceeding once again the CNMI's minimum wage of $5.05 an hour.

Super unleaded gasoline now costs $5.429 a gallon.

Diesel is now $5.319 a gallon.

Tuesday night's increase brings to 50 to 60 cents the total gas price increases on Saipan since July 17.

Prior to that, Mobil and Shell Marianas rolled back prices totaling 60 to 65 cents since May 8.

As of early last night, Shell Marianas service stations had yet to change prices. Mobil and Shell historically mirror each other's price changes, so it would only be a matter of time before Shell follows suit.

Arthur Camacho, an I-Denni resident, was surprised to learn of a $5.109 a gallon regular gas once again.

"With high gas prices, people have to limit their driving. I think we need to have pay increases because right now, the inflation and salaries are not comparable. We can't do anything about the gas prices but we can always conserve the use of gas," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*, after buying gas at the Mobil service station in Kagman yesterday.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), chair of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's Public Utilities and Infrastructure Committee, said the price increases are a result of external factors, although in the past, attempts were made by the Legislature to control portions of the price increases.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), chair of the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, said every time gas prices go up, the cost of utilities also goes up.

The CNMI, especially Rota, has the dubious distinction of having the highest gas prices on American soil.

Mobil earlier said that prices of gasoline are determined by a number of factors, including changes in the world market wholesale prices of gasoline, regional gasoline supply and demand balance, transportation costs, insurance, local distribution, marketing costs, government regulations, taxes, competitive market forces, and investments in retail stations and distribution terminals.

Mobil and Shell do not issue advance notices of price changes.

$200M

From Page 1

The 25-year agreement with Saipan Development LLC is among the most expensive government contracts in CNMI history.

As of last night, there's no telling yet whether the contract is now being fully executed.

Some lawmakers, including Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), and Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), separately said yesterday they will be asking the Office of the Public Auditor to investigate the contract award.

Manglona and Dela Cruz said the Public Utilities Commission, which is now functional, should step into the picture and review such contract.

"I would do everything I can to block this contract from being fully executed at least until all the details are scrutinized. You are talking about a 25-year obligation by the government and it's going to be the CNMI people paying for it," Dela Cruz said.

Fitial placed CUC under a state of emergency, placing CUC under his direct control.

The 41-page power purchase agreement grants Saipan Development LLC an "exclusive right to develop a diesel-generated electric power plant" on Saipan.

'No respect'

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday that "once again, Governor Fitial has shown that he has no respect for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands."

"First, he declared a CUC emergency, then, using his emergency powers, he signed us all up to pay over $200 million over the next 25 years. And for what?" Sablan told *Saipan Tribune.*

Sablan said Fitial "apparently signed this sole-source contract under his emergency declaration. How can a project that likely won't be shovel-ready for years, be considered a solution to a so-called 'emergency' and circumvent the normal CNMI procurement process?"

"We have no information about what the governor has committed Northern Mariana Islands ratepayers over $200 million for. CUC was largely bypassed. CPUC was bypassed. The Legislature was bypassed. The public was bypassed. The only person the governor consulted was AG Buckingham, just as he slipped out of the Commonwealth," Sablan said.

The delegate said Fitial himself "has conveniently disappeared" from the CNMI "before news of his "midnight deal" with Saipan Development LLC became public.

"Now we are all stuck, wondering what this means for our CUC bills for the next 25 years. Maybe the governor has struck a wonderful deal with this five-month-old company. But if it is such a good deal, why was he afraid to let us all see it? Why was he afraid to let the normal procurement process take place before committing all of us to a bill for over $200 million?" Sablan added.

There was no request for proposal, or RFP, issued on the project.

There was, however, a "request for expressions of interest for the purchase or operation of public utilities" that CUC put out. But CUC itself said it was a "non-binding, informal market survey."

Manglona, for his part, said the timing of the contract signing is alarming, given that Buckingham signed off on it on his last day of work and a day before he left the CNMI which was also shrouded in controversies.

Documents obtained didn't show the date Fitial signed off on the agreement. A representative from Saipan Development LLC also has yet to sign the deal based on the same documents.

"Why did the governor declare a CUC emergency? Now it seems he used the emergency declaration to get as much contracts signed to circumvent PUC review," Manglona said, adding that former CUC executive director Abe Malae may have been fired by the governor for opposing a contract such as the one the governor and Buckingham signed.

Buckingham was escorted by armed police and ports police officers to the airport, allegedly to help shield the then AG from being served a penal summons in connection with criminal charges that OPA filed against him.

'So secret'

Fitial and Buckingham's signing of the contract was known to only a few individuals, because not even top Commonwealth Utilities Corp. officials nor acting governor Eloy S. Inos were made aware of it only the past 24 hours or so.

CUC was not even a signatory to the power purchase agreement.

Acting press secretary Teresa Kim, when asked for comment, said Inos received a "copy" of the power purchase agreement only yesterday morning "and is currently reviewing it."

Kim said the acting governor does not have the original contract.

Fitial made Inos in charge of renewable energy efforts with respect to CUC, which the governor placed again under a state of emergency.

Sablan asked, "Whatever happened to plans to move away from fossil fuels and into alternative energy?"

"I call on acting governor Inos to make every detail of this contract immediately available to the public with a full explanation of the purpose and justification for this new debt of over $200 million" Sablan said.

Senate PUTC meeting

Ayuyu, chair of the Senate Public Utilities and Communications Committee, called for a meeting this afternoon with CUC acting executive director Alan W. Fletcher and other CUC officials about the contract.

"We are not saying it's good or bad contract, but we want to hear from CUC. I understand CUC is under a state of emergency, but CUC has to know first [if there's such a contract like this]," he said.

Dela Cruz, chair of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's Public Utilities and Infrastructure Committee, said he will also be attending the meeting to know more about the contract and the circumstances leading to the signing of the contract.

Under the agreement, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will pay Saipan Development LLC "300 consecutive, equal monthly installments of $636,091."

Three hundred months is equivalent to 25 years. If the monthly payment is $636,091, then the yearly payment is $7.63 million. That is equivalent to $190.8 million in 25 years.

Payment of the guaranteed price "is not subject to alteration, adjustment, setoff, counterclaim, abatement or Force Majeure."

In addition to the guaranteed price, CUC shall pay Saipan Development LLC an operations and maintenance fee of 0.0191 per plant-produced kWh per month.

CUC shall also pay a production fee of .0153 cents per plant-produced kWh to cover the costs of lubricant oils consumables and spare parts.

Fitial and Buckingham signed the power purchase agreement just weeks after a CUC buyout of a contract of independent power producer Pacific Marine & Industrial Corp., or PMIC, for $7.25 million. This will be paid in installments for 27 months. PMIC used to operate Power Plant 4 station in Puerto Rico.

Election commission holds drawing of lots for candidates

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Aspirants for the 2012 mid-term elections and their representatives trooped to the Commonwealth Election Commission yesterday morning as they participated in the drawing of lots for the upcoming Nov. 6 polls.

Election commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero said yesterday's "lottery" was conducted in advance of the election commission board meeting again. The board currently is non-functioning due to lack of quorum.

Guerrero pointed out that pursuant to law, the election commission is responsible to conduct the drawing of lots to determine the placing of candidates in the official ballot form. However, he refused to make public the result of the drawing pending certification from the election board.

"We're racing against time here and we want to ensure that everything is ready for action when the board resumes [its function]. Until the drawing results are certified by the board, that's the only time we can release these names on the ballot. At this point in time, no one [from the filers] has been certified as candidate for November election," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Election commission records show that there are 78 individuals who filed petition for candidacies for various elected government posts, while three legislative initiatives have been transmitted to the office.

Guerrero disclosed that his office has completed the review of all 78 petitions and will be recommended for certification to the election board. Without a functioning board to certify the petitions, all these aspirants will be automatically certified 45 days before election or on Sept. 22 pursuant to election law.

But at this time, the executive director pointed out that "there's nothing we can do" than wait for the election board to function.

Despite the completion of the lottery yesterday, Guerrero stressed that the election commission cannot proceed with the ballot's layout without certification from the board.

Thus, this will also affect the production of 17,000 ballots for this year's mid-term polls. These ballots are initially planned to be picked up by first week of September.

Besides the drawing of lots, the election commission has also been preparing for the informational campaign for the three legislative initiatives to be placed on the ballots.

The election commission is now working on the translation for these legislative initiatives, while printing and publication will follow.

The three initiatives to be ratified by voters include House Legislative Initiative 17-2, which will make the Attorney General an elected position; Senate Legislative Initiative 17-12, which seeks to amend Northern Marianas College's Board of Regents to revise NMC's mission statement; and the newly passed House Legislative Initiative 17-5, which will allow the government to float a bond.

6 court marshals complete firearms training

The Department of Public Safety yesterday presented certificates to the CNMI Judiciary's five marshals who completed firearms training.

DPS deputy commissioner and CNMI range master Ambrosio T. Ogumoro and Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho handed the certificates to chief marshal Anthony P. Benavente, deputy marshal III Jesus S. Santos, deputy marshal II Juan K. Atalig, deputy marshal I Benusto M. Lisua, and deputy marshal Cindy D. Serrano.

Deputy marshal 1 Anthony A. Atalig of Rota also completed the training, but failed to attend yesterday's ceremony held at the CNMI Supreme Court.

The six marshals successfully completed the 40 hours marksmanship course on handguns.

Ogumoro and firearm instructor David M. Hosono served as instructors during the training.

Camacho provided oversight of the marshals' training curriculum.

The marshals underwent the marksmanship training as part of their assumption of new authorities, duties, responsibilities and functions.

Under Public Law 17-41, the chief marshal and deputies are required to undergo firearms training and periodic certification to the same extent as DPS police officers.

Acting chief justice Alexandro C. Castro said access to justice requires the CNMI courts and all courts in the country to be safe, accessible, and convenient to the people.

Castro said the marksmanship training was only first step for the marshals as they will undergo further firearms and security training in Guam.

Ogumoro said with the acquired knowledge during the training, the marshals should be proud for receiving the certification.

Camacho, who is a former police officer, reminded the marshals to understand their responsibilities and the scope of their work. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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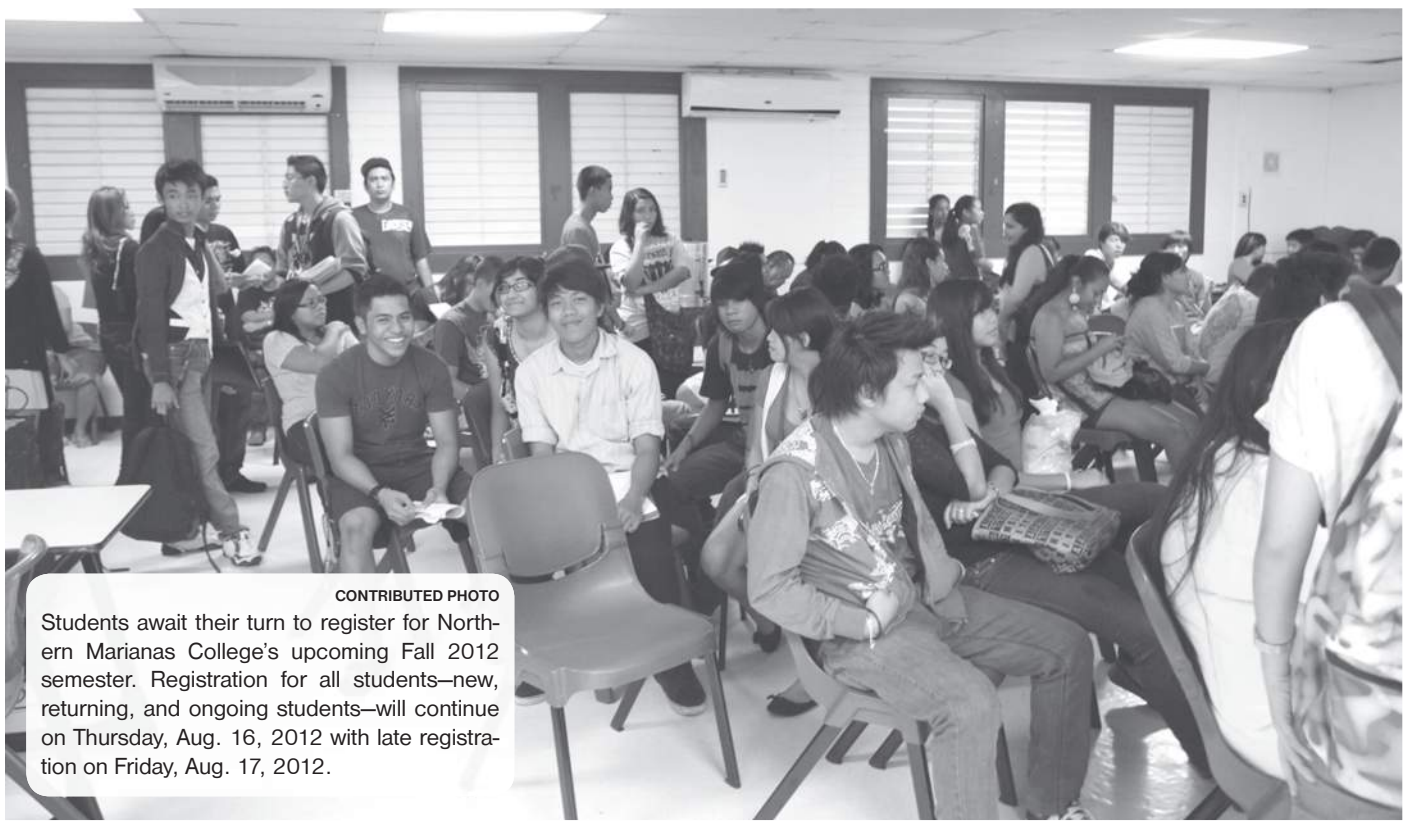
IN FIRST TWO DAYS OF REGISTRATION

Over 600 students enroll at NMC



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Students await their turn to register for Northern Marianas College's upcoming Fall 2012 semester. Registration for all students—new, returning, and ongoing students—will continue on Thursday, Aug. 16, 2012 with late registration on Friday, Aug. 17, 2012.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 600 students enrolled at the Northern Marianas College in the first two days of the week-long registration period for Fall 2012 semester.

The college, in a statement to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, stated that a total of 620 full-time equivalent students, or FTE, was recorded on Monday and Tuesday. The 620 FTEs reflects a 30-percent increase over the figure for Fall 2011 semester.

NMC noted that there are two more days of registration left, so the final enrollment numbers for the Fall 2012 will not be known yet until registration has been completed on Friday.

The college is expecting the enrollment figure to increase within the week.

"For the past few semesters, the college has continued to post strong enrollment numbers. Just five years ago, our FTE enrollment was hovering at the 800 full-time equivalency level, and now we're at about 50 percent higher than that," NMC president Sharon Y. Hart said yesterday.

According to the president, full time equivalency (FTE) is calculated by taking the total number of credits that students have registered for and dividing that figure by 12 as the minimum number needed to be a full time student.

NMC Student Services dean Leo Pangelinan credited the increase in enrollment over the past few semesters to recruitment efforts and outreach efforts through the College Access Challenge Grant project and other programs.

"While it is important that we look at the number of students served under our credit programs, it is equally important that we look at the numbers served in our non-credit programs like the Community Development Institute and the Adult Basic Education Program," said Hart, adding that in the last few years, NMC served thousands of individuals in these non-credit programs.

"There is no mistaking the that the college plays a central role in educating and training tens of thousands of individuals each year, and this has been accomplished through our academic programs and other community programs that focus on training and development," added the president.

According to the president, NMC is also refocusing its recruitment efforts on adult students who have delayed enrollment for one reason or another. NMC has recently established a "Climb Higher" program aimed at recruiting adult students and providing them with the resources they need to earn a degree.

Registration for the Fall 2012 semester is ongoing until Aug. 17, 2012. For more information, students are asked to visit www.nmcnet.edu or call 234-5498 ext. 1528.

Liyo Housing occupancy increases to 80 percent

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The hard work of Northern Mariana Housing Corp.'s Rota Field Office paid off as it saw an increase in the occupancy rate of its Section 8 housing units.

Of the 30 units in the Liyo Housing, 80 percent or 24 units are now occupied in contrast to the 43-percent occupancy rate or about 13 to 15 units occupied in 2011, based on the latest field office report that the board had during its meeting yesterday.

"Barry (Toves, Rota field office staff) is working very hard in leasing up some of the units," acting corporate director Jesse Palacios informed the board.

Board chair Marcie M. Tomokane commended Toves for his work in the Liyo Housing, which she noted as having a prime location.

Director Tom Glenn Quitugua pointed out, though, that the Liyo Housing's "downfall" is its old housing structures which are now about 30 years old. He recommended that the agency build "model homes" to add "prestige" to the area.

Director Diego Songao, for his part, said the rehabilitation of the housing units would make it more attractive or sellable to potential tenants or owners.

Tomokane, noted that discussions about rehabilitation of the Liyo Housing were done in the past but had to be put aside for fear that NMHC would lose its Section 8 and Multifamily Assistance funding by doing that.

But Palacios said that one housing unit on Rota, another unit on Tinian, and six more units on Saipan will soon undergo rehabilitation work to be funded through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program 3 grant.

The $300,000 grant, Palacios added, will have to be spent before the March 13, 2013 deadline.

Mother slips near swimming pool, sues hotel

A mother is suing the owner of Saipan World Resort Hotel over the injuries she suffered when she allegedly slipped on a slippery wooden section near a swimming pool in the hotel two years ago.

Vonnie Sablan, through counsel David G. Banes, sued World Corp. for negligence.

Sablan asked the Superior Court to find World Corp. liable to pay her damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Saipan Tribune yesterday contacted the hotel, but no one was available to comment.

According to the complaint, on Aug. 20, 2010 at 11:30am, Sablan and her family were guests at the Saipan World Resort's Wave Jungle.

Sablan and her family went swimming at the Wave Jungle to celebrate her son's birthday.

Banes said as Sablan came out of the pool near the slides, she suddenly slipped on a slippery wooden section near the pool and hit her head on a metal pole.

Sablan allegedly fell down on the left side of her body.

"Immediately prior to the occurrence of the injuries herein complained, there was no indication to Ms. Sablan that the wooden section near the pool was unreasonably dangerous," the lawyer said.

Banes said the fall resulted in injury to Sablan's head, abrasions on the elbow, and contusions on the left lower back.

The plaintiff also allegedly suffered from pain on the head and neck, radiating to the shoulders down to the elbow, and back pain.

Sablan allegedly became dizzy, nauseous, and her blood pressure went up. She was then brought to the FHP Clinic for treatment.

Banes said the plaintiff missed work for several days and that her injuries required the services of a specialist and medical attention for several months.

The lawyer said Sablan is still recovering from her injuries.

"Saipan World Resort disregarded its duty in that behalf and did not use due care to see that the wooden floor near the pool was in a safe and proper condition," Banes said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

BON VOYAGE
Bon voyage to Jason John P. Limes! You will be leaving us on Aug. 18 to undergo your training for USMC! This was your dream, now you will be living it! Keep your head up high and stay strong! We believe you can do it. We miss you already! With love and prayers, KaiLin and Laluso Famz.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Remengesau to hold grassroots rally on Aug. 18

Palau presidential candidate Sen. Tommy E. Remengesau Jr. is organizing a grassroots rally on Saturday, Aug. 18, from 5:30pm to 11pm at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

He is inviting all Palauans residing in the CNMI to attend the rally where they can enjoy dinner and live entertainment.

Remengesau also said his fellow Palauans can also be informed about today's issues and challenges in Palau, ask questions, and learn about his platform during the grassroots rally. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '93 reunion meeting

Marianas High School Class of 1993 will be having a class reunion meeting on Friday, Aug. 17, beginning at 6:30pm at the home of Irene and Jack Torres in Sadog Tasi. For location and direction, contact Maryann Borja-Arriola at 483-2279 or Ri Tudela at 285-1526. ***(PR)***

SSHS sets important dates for start of school year

Saipan Southern High School will hold its first day of classes for school year 2012-2013 on Sep. 4, 2012.

Students must be on campus by 8am. Classes starts at 8:30am and dismissal is at 3pm. All new students enrolling at SSHS for school year 2012-2013 must complete and submit a registration form.

Registration forms are available in the registrar's office or main office. All returning students who attended SSHS last year must return all textbooks and settle all obligations with the school, before you can pick up your class reschedule.

Schedules are to be picked up at the Counseling office are as follows:

- 12th grade: Aug. 22, 2012 9am-4pm
- 11th grade: Aug. 23 9am-4pm,
- 10th grade Aug. 24 9am-4pm.

All transfer and new students enrolling at SSHS SY2012-2013 in grades 10,11, and 12 are required to attend an orientation on Aug. 28 from 1pm to 3pm with their parents or legal guardians.

No students will be allowed to attend the orientation without parents or legal guardians in attendance. Incoming freshman students orientation will be held on two different session to accommodate parents or legal guardians work schedules. Both sessions are on Aug. 28 from 9am to 11am and 1pm to 3pm.

For more information, call SSHS principal Jesse Tudela at 237-3702 or the main office at 664-4000/ 237-3710. ***(PR)***

GTC important school events/dates:

- **Parent orientation:** There will be a parent orientation for new and returning parents to communicate changes and expectations for SY 2012-13. Orientation will be on Friday, Aug. 17, 2012 at 5pm (approximately an hour). School supply listing and free meal application will be available.
- **Kindergarten Reading First Assessment (RFA) Screening Test:** All in-coming kindergarten students will be tested with the RFA by his/her kindergarten teacher. The screening test is approximately 15-20 minutes. Scheduled testing time and date have been made with parents. Please do not miss your scheduled testing date. For your date and time, you may call, 237-3121 and ask for Ms. Angie. RFA testing days are Aug. 20-22, 2012 between 8:30am and 11:30am.
- **Kindergarten orientation:** There will be an orientation for all kindergarten parents and students. This is an opportunity for you and your child to meet your child's kinder teacher and answer any questions you may have. Expectations about home-school partnership will also be shared. Kinder orientation is on Thursday, Aug. 23, 2012 beginning at 5pm to 6pm.
- **First Day of School:** Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012. Classes start promptly at 8am and ends at 2pm.
- **Back to School Open House:** Friday, Sept. 7, 2012 at 5pm. We will convene in the cafeteria and then disperse into your child's classroom.
- **School Supply List for Kindergarten to 6th Grade:** Is available at National Office Supply and Modern Stationery. ***(PR)***

Housing adopts 2 SOP amendments to Section 8, Multifamily programs

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. board approved yesterday two amendments to the standard operating procedures for termination of tenants under the Section 8 and Multifamily Assistance housing programs.

Starting next fiscal year or on Oct. 1, NMHC would require their tenants to present their utility payment for the previous month before they are given their monthly utility allowance checks issued every fifth of the month.

"That way, we will know whether their power is still hooked up or not. If they don't have any power, the more reason for us to start the termination process," acting corporate director Jesse Palacios said during yesterday's board meeting.

Based on regulations by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the federal agency that provides funding to NMHC programs, tenants under the Section 8 and Multifamily Assistance programs should have power and water services in their housing units.

Palacios said in an interview that they explain these regulations to the tenants during an orientation, wherein they are also reminded that failure to comply with said regulations would result to termination.

He noted that NMHC only finds out during their mandated annual inspections that tenants don't have power and water services for a certain period of time, so requiring the previous month's utility payments would ease up inspections.

"In the regulations, you're supposed to be terminated once you don't have any power or water because of health and sanitary reasons. By having them turn in their receipts that they did pay, then it's going to show that their power and water are still hooked up and we don't have to worry about terminating them," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune.*

A tenant is accorded enough time to rectify a violation or non-compliance with a guideline For example, tenants who have their power services cut off are given 24 hours to get reconnected. Failure to do so would result to the issuance of a termination notice.

Zerlyn Taimanao, Program and Housing Division manager, said during that meeting that "not more than 15" tenants have been terminated from the program since she took over her position in 2010.

Palacios disclosed, however, that there are tenants who would be disconnected by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. due to non-payment of electric bill at one point, then face the same dilemma for water or sewer bills the next time.

Because of this, he said NMHC will work with the board to determine the number of violations a tenant is allowed to have.

The second amendment to the SOP is the frequency of inspections for units under Section 8 and Multifamily Housing programs.

From the mandated annual inspections, the board instructed the agency staff to conduct quarterly inspections for all 325 units, allowing NMHC to facilitate monitoring if tenants are in compliance with its guidelines.

"We're mandated to do annual inspections but it does not prevent us from doing otherwise," said board chair Marcie M. Tomokane, adding that the HUD officials have corroborated this during their visit last June.

Since NMHC only has one staff, Mitch Aaron, inspecting all its housing units, the second amendment will be tested for a period of time and determined if it works or if the agency would need more inspectors.

Board director Diego Songao stressed the need to give the tenants more responsibility while under the two housing programs through both amendments, saying that those who fail to meet the set guidelines should be terminated from the program to give way to others in their waitlist and would want to receive assistance from NMHC.

The agency will be notifying its tenants about the amendments.

NMC adds two more days in math placement tests schedule

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting additional math placement tests on Thursday, Aug. 16, and Friday, Aug. 17, 2012. Math placement tests are scheduled as follows:

Math Placement Test Schedule

Aug. 16	10am-12pm	Room G-1
	12pm-2pm	Room G-1
	5pm-7pm	Room G-1
Aug. 17	10am-12pm	Room A-9
	12pm-2pm	Room A-9

The English placement will also be conducted on the following dates:

Aug. 16	9am-6pm	Building M
Aug. 17	9am-4pm	Building M

Registration for new, returning (re-admitted to NMC after not taking courses for one year or more) and ongoing students will continue on Thursday, Aug. 16, 2012 from 9am to 6pm. Late registration is on Friday, Aug. 17, 2012 from 9am to 6pm.

New students are required to take the English and math placement tests before they register for NMC's Fall 2012 semester. After taking the placement tests, students can meet with their academic advisors who will assist students complete registration forms and create class schedules.

There is a $25 fee for each placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (M-F, 8:30am-4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement test fee, or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee. Students who have a fee waiver must obtain a placement test slip from the Office of Admissions and Records prior to taking the test.

Test takers must also bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the English placement test are strongly encouraged to contact the Language and Humanities Department (Building M) to schedule an appointment. There is also a signup sheet for the English placement test in Building M.

"Walk-in" test takers will be accommodated based on seat availability. The average time to complete the English placement test is between 1.5 and 2.5 hours.

To schedule an appointment to take the English placement test or for more information, contact Jim Kline at 234-5498 ext. 2017, Tom Colton at 234-5498 ext. 2009, or Elsie Skang-Ngewakl at ext. 2014.

Calculators may be used when taking the math placement test. Test takers are not allowed to take the math placement test more than once. The only exception to this condition is for those who have NOT taken a math class within one year of taking the math placement test.

If you have any questions about the math placement test, call the Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics Dept. at 234-5498 ext. 1202 or 1212.

For additional information about the placement tests and registration for the Fall 2012 semester, visit the Office of Admissions and Records in Building N or call 234-5498 ext. 1528/1540, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(PR)***

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, Plaintiff,	]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0021**
-v-	]	
JOSEPH ALDAN ARRIOLA, Defendant.	]	**SEVENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 31, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 034 L 129, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 257 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described in the Subdivision of Lot 034 L 63, on DLS Check No. 034 L 21 recorded in the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as file No. 97-1299; and Lot 034 L 130, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 257 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described in the Subdivision of Lot 034 L 63, on DLS check No. 34 L 21, recorded in the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 97-1299.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, August 24, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 25th day of July, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC., Plaintiff,	]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0338**
-v-	]	
RAMON P. AGULTO and DALIA R. AGULTO, Defendants.	]	**FOURTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 16, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 001 G 32, situated in Kagman, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 02, the original of which was recorded March 20, 1986, as Document No. 86-0513, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, and also recorded on February 16, 1989, as Document No. 89-511, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, August 24, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 25th day of July, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

National Car Rental
Cool Summer Promo
Alamo

TOYOTA COROLLA / YARIS

HYUNDAI TUCSON

$42/day
(CDW INSURANCE INCLUDED)

FORD / NISSAN PICK-UP TRUCK

$79/day

NISSAN PATHFINDER / XTERRA

$85/day

NISSAN QUEST VAN

(CDW INSURANCE INCLUDED)

Renter must be 21 yrs. & above with Drivers License. Security deposit of $200.00 for Cash payments.
Offer expires on August 31, 2012. Some restrictions apply.
Tel. No. 288-4400 /233-0111/235-6627/285-4405/888-6055

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council
"Yes I Can!"
P.O. BOX 501521, SAIPAN, MP 95950; TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2012 Fourth General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, August 21, 2012 at the Fleming Corporation, Tinian from 9:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Welcome New Members - Roll Call
II. Adoption of Agenda
III. Review and adoption of June 14, 2012 Minutes
IV. Reports
- OVR Director
- SILC Chairman
- CIL Director

V. Old Business
- Review membership composition
- SILC Resource Plan

VI. New Business
- Update for New SILC Members
- Review & Plan for the 2013 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)
- 2013 SILC Congress Updates
- FY 2013 NDEAM

VII. Consumer Forum
VIII. Announcements/Miscellaneous
IX. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Elvira Seman (Council Liaison) two days in advance for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Stephen Dutro
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

Teno, wife sue owner of defunct Hotel Riviera

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former governor Pedro P. Tenorio and his wife Sophia Tenorio are suing the owner of the defunct Hotel Riviera Saipan for allegedly failing to pay lease of their land located in the hotel's premises in Fina Sisu.

The Tenorio couple along with a limited liability company PRC LLC are suing Chang Shin Resort Saipan Corp. for breach of contract and trespass to land.

The plaintiffs, through counsel Daniel C. Stafford, asked the Superior Court to order Chang Shin Resort to pay them at least $64,330 in actual damages plus double rent for any applicable holdover periods.

The plaintiffs demanded more damages plus court costs and attorney's fees in unspecified amount. They also asked the court to remove the defendant from their property.

According to Stafford, Pedro Tenorio is the fee simple owner of certain real property containing 3,411 and 236 square meters.

Sophia Tenorio is the fee simple owner of certain real property containing 10,000 square meters.

PRC LLC is the fee simple owner of certain real property containing 5,996 square meters.

Stafford said pursuant to a 55-year ground lease agreement, Chang Shin Resort is required to pay PRC $2,400 monthly as consideration for the right to use and possess of PRC's land.

On Jan. 1, 2010, Chang Shin Resort began a pattern of regularly defaulting in its obligations to pay monthly rental to PRC, and the Tenorios.

On June 7, 2012, PRC sent the defendant notice that it intended to terminate the lease if the total outstanding rent was not paid within 10 days.

Stafford said Chang Shin Resort paid no money for the notice of default and owes the company $16,000 as of the date of this lawsuit.

With respect to the Tenorios, the couple leased their land to Chang Shin for a period of 55 years.

The lease agreement requires the defendant to pay Mrs. Tenorio $5,342 monthly and $1,996.50 monthly to Mr. Tenorio as consideration for the right to use and possess their land.

The Tenorios sent on March 19, 2012 a notice to the defendant that they intended to terminate the lease agreement if the total outstanding rent was not paid within 30 days.

Chang Shin Resort allegedly did not pay the Tenorios despite the notice of default.

Stafford said as of the date of this complaint, the defendant owes $35,352.77 and $12,977.25 to Mrs. Tenorio and Mr. Tenorio, respectively.

Hotel Riviera Saipan shut down operations on May 13, 2012 as it has no electric power and its 15 employees refused to work after not receiving their paychecks for two consecutive months.

Saipan Tribune visited the hotel on Saturday and noticed it was still closed.

Only one of the 15 employees is still staying in the hotel despite lack of electric power supply, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Sister programs join forces to protect Lao Lao Bay

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Our LaoLao Program and sister program Lao Lao Bay Tasi Watch held an on-site training, invasive removal project, and a beach cleanup in the Lao Lao Bay area during the last weekend of June.

The last weekend of June was a busy couple of days in the Lao Lao Bay area as the Our LaoLao Program and its sister program Lao Lao Bay Tasi Watch held an on-site training, invasive removal project, and a beach cleanup.

On June 27, the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance and the Our LaoLao Program sponsored an on-site historical and cultural training presented by Herman Tudela of the Historic Preservation Office.

Tudela spoke about the historical and cultural significance of the Lao Lao Bay area. He took the group, which consisted of MINA's interns and rangers around Zone 1, 2, and 3 of Lao Lao—he explained each sites' rich historic background and how it relates to the Chamorro culture of today. After his presentation, Jamie Fejeran, assistant outreach coordinator of Our LaoLao Campaign, presented on the importance on preserving Lao Lao's beauty.

On July 28 both programs held two events with an invasive removal project in Zone 2 and a beach cleanup in zone 1 and 3. Eight parolees from the CNMI Board of Parole participated in the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance Lao Lao Bay Conservation Rehabilitation Services.

Participants collected about 400 lbs of invasive plant species at Laolao Beach. The CNMI Board of Parole is MINA's new Tasi Watch partner in protecting Laolao Bay's near-shore marine resources. This new partnership will assist MINA in implementing its new program called the Laolao Bay Environmental Rehabilitation Services.

Under this program, parolees will be given an opportunity to learn and respect conservation through MINA's environmental workshops and on-the-ground projects such as coastal re-vegetation, invasive species removal and beach cleanups. The purpose of the Laolao Bay Environmental Rehabilitation Services is to encourage and promote good environmental stewardship by working together to protect our Laolao Bay. It is MINA's mission to work to sustain the natural environment to ensure our islands' way of life. This is the second time parolees had participated in this type of event, the first one was held in March 2012. As a sister program for MINA Tasi Watch, the Our LaoLao Campaign had their volunteers partake in the effort in addition to the CNMI Board of Parole. The Mount Carmel School Alumni Class of '02 and Latte Vibes were among the various members of the community who participated. In collaboration with Coastal Resources Management, Division of Environmental Quality, and SeaWeb, they were able to garner 23 bags of trash with a weight total over 300 lbs. Their focuses were primarily Zones 1, the boat launch area, and Zone 3, the dive site. It is both programs' goal to protect Lao Lao Bay's beauty and natural resources by coordinating outreach events such as these and collaborating with government agencies and other non-profit organizations. Participants from Board of Parole were properly supervised and separated from all other volunteers from the beach cleanup.

For more information on MINA and its programs, email minaoutreach@gmail.com or call us at 233-7333 (REEF). ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A total of 700 lbs of trash were collected during last June's Lao Lao Bay beach cleanup.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 16, 1999

Cing pushes for strict polling oversight

Fearing possible election irregularities, Tinian Senator and re-electionist David M. Cing has asked the Election Commission for "strict oversight" particularly on his precinct during the Nov. 1 polls. Cing, in an Aug. 8 letter to Election Commission chairman Miguel M. Sablan, said it was suggested that certain government employees were instructed to vote in pairs "to ensure that each knows whether the other employee is voting for the person supported by the employing government entity." He said certain individuals disclosed that they had been required to vote in booths "that are not enclosed completely and directly adjacent to other booths." Further, he narrated that in the past, he was victimized as some had used codenames or words to instruct each other how to vote. "This practice was disallowed after I instituted court proceedings," he said.

OIA public relations campaign damaged CNMI—Reyes

Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes has stepped up his criticisms against the Office of Insular Affairs with a letter to U.S. Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) in which he slammed the agency for its alleged role in a political campaign that used CNMI issues as a weapon against GOP legislators. "Actions aimed at political damage to those who have seen fit to take the CNMI's side on our relationship with Washington seem to us just another part of an ongoing, questionable, federally-funded campaign by (OIA) against our best local interests," he said. The statement was part of the letter to Young, chair of the House Resources Committee, which is currently conducting an investigation against key OIA officials for possible violations of the Hatch Act.

Aug. 16, 2000

CPA earmarks $1M for airport CIP

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has set aside $1 million to finance the Capital Improvement Projects at the airport division in Saipan, Rota and Tinian for Fiscal Year 2001. Of this amount, Saipan has the biggest share with $817,154; $129,356 for Rota and $94,450 for Tinian. This amount is on top of the $8.1 million to be funded by 702 CIP Funds for various CPA projects. So far, only Saipan International Airport is the only one that serves international air carriers. Rota and Tinian airports only serve two commuter carriers between Saipan and Guam. At the Seaport division, an estimated $68,400 has been set aside to finance projects at Saipan Harbor, which is in addition to the $729,000 to be funded by the 1998 bond money.

Bill seeking to regulate trust companies OK'd

Legislation seeking to regulate trust companies based on the islands cleared the House of Representatives yesterday, setting into motion a plan to lure Asian and U.S. investors with millions of dollars in trust accounts. HB 12-82, sponsored by Rep. William S. Torres, came just as Guam successfully attracted initial investments of $40 million from trust companies in the U.S. with the recent signing of the law regulating the financial sector. The measure seeks to establish a mechanism to regulate and license trust companies that will be based here in order to protect public interest, while ensuring efficiency in the delivery in this type of service.

Aug. 16, 2001

Marpi landfill bidding controversy continues

Officials of a joint-venture bidder in the Marpi landfill project questioned the lengthy defense of Solid Waste Manager John Harder offered in the 14-page protest decision from the Division of Procurement and Supply, which dismisses public statements the government official concerning DRC-Pacific. The protest decision stated, "Admittedly some of the foregoing information and statements are very negative about DRC." P&S continued, "We do not find personal animosity or hostility in John Harder's critical review of DRC's proposal, and of DRC as a potential contractor. He simply does not like its proposal." The proposal offered by the joint venture of Western Equipment/DRC Pacific nearly two years ago, outlines a plan to build a landfill and close the Puerto Rico Dump, and finance the dump closure along with some development of the site.

OPA: Retirement Fund overcharged

A private contractor hired by the Northern Mariana Island Retirement Fund has overcharged the Fund by $9,586 through overstated monthly billings and double billings. This was the result of an audit conducted by the Office of the Public Auditor on the billings incurred by the Fund under a professional services contract covering October 1, 1996 to February 29, 2000.

Pacific

Australian court bars extradition in WWII case

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's highest court ruled Wednesday that a 90-year-old Australian citizen cannot be extradited to Hungary to face accusations he tortured and killed a Jewish teenager during World War II.

The High Court upheld an earlier Federal Court decision that stopped the government from extraditing former Hungarian soldier Charles Zentai to face possible war crimes charges, arguing that those charges did not exist at the time of the slaying.

Hungary says Zentai is suspected of beating the teen to death in Budapest in 1944 for failing to wear a star identifying him as a Jew. Zentai, who migrated to Australia in 1950 and later became a citizen, has denied the allegation and has been fighting extradition since 2005.

Last year, the Federal Court found that because the offense of "war crime" was not on Hungary's statute books when the teenager died in 1944, it was not an offense for which Zentai may be surrendered under Australia's extradition treaty with Hungary.

The government appealed, but on Wednesday, the High Court upheld the lower court's decision. Home Affairs Minister Jason Clare confirmed in a statement that the ruling means Zentai cannot be extradited.

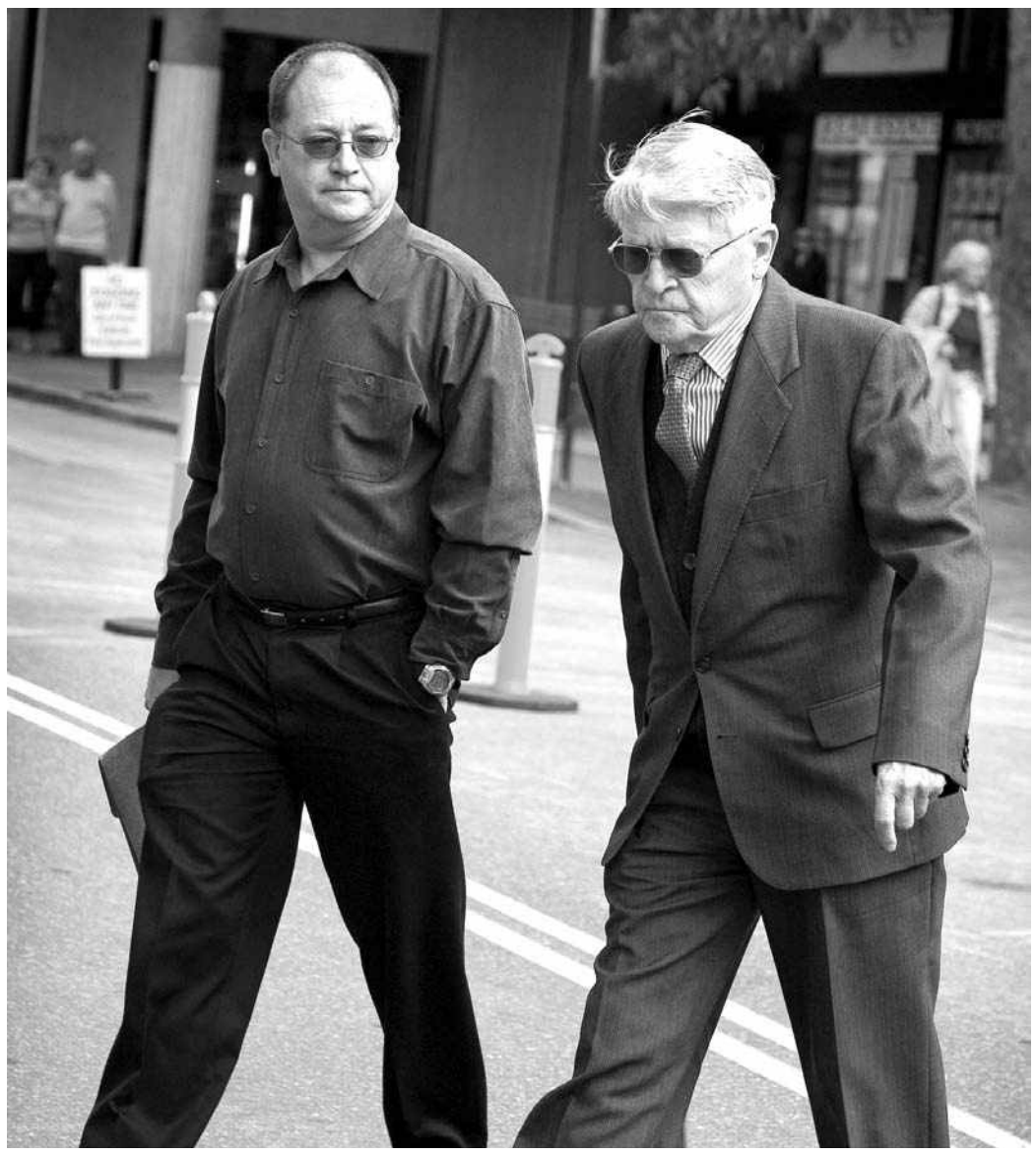
Zentai's son, Ernie Steiner, has argued that his father—who has been free on bail—is too ill to survive the trip to Hungary.

Zentai told reporters in the western city of Perth on Wednesday that he was prepared to supply answers if Hungary sent investigators to Australia to question him.

"I've been so stressed, in the last few days in particular. Now, I just don't know how I feel," Zentai said.

Steiner said his father was innocent and was not even in Budapest when the teen died.

Zentai is listed by the Nazi-hunting, U.S.-based Simon Wiesenthal Center among its 10 most wanted for having "participated in manhunts, persecution, and murder of Jews in Budapest in 1944."



AP

In this Sept. 22, 2006 file photo Charles Zentai, right, leaves the Perth Magistrates Court with his son Ernie Steiner following proceedings to extradite to Zentai to Hungary, in Perth, Australia.

Vanuatu provident fund administration suspended

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia)—Vanuatu's government has confirmed seven senior executives of a national superannuation fund have been suspended—with pay.

The suspension of the senior executives of the National Provident Fund came after a series of

damaging articles published in Vanuatu's Daily Post newspaper accusing them of nepotism and mismanagement.

The government says it will hold an independent inquiry into the claims.

The articles alleged the general manager of the fund had paid herself a substantial monthly salary while also recruiting family members before more experienced candidates, and also paying them higher than normal salaries.

» Allegations of nepotism in local news causing anger in public

Director General of Vanuatu's finance department, George Mamiuri, has told Pacific Beat the suspension with pay was a necessary measure.

"In the past, when the board suspended management without pay, they brought the case against the fund and was successful in court," he said. "The fund was obliged to pay all the salaries as well as the expenses occurred during the court process."

The National Provident Fund has been the subject of controversy before. Similar allegations in 1998 led to rioting and unrest in the Pacific nation.

General secretary of the Vanuatu Christian Council, Shem Tamar, also speaking to Pacific Beat, says the suspensions may have prevented rioting this time around, but there is still anger among people who feel there will be nothing to claim by the time they retire.

"What we're concerned about is—the Chief and the Churches, the Constitutional body—we're here for the traditional values and we felt we should see if we could come in and contribute so that there could be a peaceful handling right through," he said.

The Vanuatu Christian Council and the Council of Chiefsare leading the pressure on the country's government to launch an independent investigation.

George Mamiuri says the government has a plan of action to restore confidence in the pension fund, saying it was only for a short period of time in ten years that executive salaries had increased to a level that was seen as unacceptable.

"The investigation will cover areas in relation to areas of recruitment processing, salary grading, and looking at the members' benefits," he said. "And also the tender and procurement processes."

Mr. Mamiuri did not specify when the investigation would begin but he did say it would take at least one month.

Speaker Figir meets with US Assistant Secretary Campbell

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—Speaker Isaac V. Figir of the 17th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia recently met with a high level delegation from the United States government headed by Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Kurt M. Campbell.

On Aug. 3, Figir along with certain Congress members met with Assistant Secretary Campbell and his delegation for frank and candid discussions on various issues of mutual concerns and cooperation among which included the amended Compact of Free Association between the U.S. and the FSM.

Figir referenced the Compact as a "true model of partnership between two nations," and underscored that the FSM values highly the special relationship it has with the U.S. through the Compact.

Campbell

Figir

Along with the speaker, the other members that welcomed Assistant Secretary Campbell were floor leader F. Singkoro Harper and Sens. Dohsis Halbert, David W. Panuelo, and Tony H. Otto.

The high-level delegation that accompanied Campbell included Admiral Cecil Haney, Commander of the U.S. Navy Pacific Fleet; Gloria Steele, USAID Mission director; Jeffrey Prescot, special advisor for Asian Affairs from the Office of U.S. Vice President; Edgar Kagan, Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Islands Affairs; Anusha Seneviratne, Desk Officer of the Office of Pacific Islands Affairs; Captain James Wyatt, executive assistant to Admiral Haney; LCDR Jon O'Connor, Flag Aide to Admiral Haney; and the representative of the U.S. government to the FSM, Ambassador Peter Prahar of the U.S. Embassy.

Assistant Secretary Campbell and his interagency delegation's visit to the FSM is part of his tour of the Pacific Island nations of Tonga, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, the FSM, Palau, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands.

The tour is Campbell's second to the FSM and according to the U.S. Embassy press release, the second annual tour of the Pacific "underscores the United States' commitment to working with its Pacific Island partners to secure a sustainable, prosperous, and peaceful future." ***(PR)***

Solomons landowners may cut water supply to Honiara

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia)—Honiara's water supply may be switched off, with the Solomon Islands Government saying it can't afford to pay a bill from the land trustees.

The land trustees of Kongulai on Guadalcanal manage the regions from which Honiara's water supply is drawn, and distribute the payments among the villages in the region.

They say the government still owes them SB$6 million (US$850,000), and have negotiated an agreement under which the government has until lunchtime on Wednesday to pay SB$4.9 million (US$700,000), or they will switch off the water supply.

The permanent secretary of the Ministry of Lands, Stanley Waleanisia, has told Radio Australia's

Pacific Beat program that it was an outstanding debt from five years ago.

"I explained the difficulties of making a payment, given there is no budget for it," he said.

"I made it clear to the trustees that we made a supplementary to the parliament and we're waiting for the parliament to meet, maybe later this year."

He says until the parliament meets—the government can only afford to pay SB$300,000 (US$43,000)—less than a tenth of what is owed.

It's not a hollow threat as the landowners turned the water to Honiara off for two weeks last December after the government fell behind in its schedule of payments.

The government paid one installment of $2 million on that occasion, but landowners now say they are waiting for two further payments.

Damaso Roko, one of the elders of the Tanadai Haubata Tribe overseeing the payments, says if the government pays up the crisis can be averted.

"If they complete the payments, then I will make a new agreement and transfer the lease agreement to the water authority, so that I will have no problems on the payment," he said.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Egypt's surprise: An elected president sidelines the generals

Egypt has undergone a revolution of sorts. No, not the one last year, when weeks of mass protests forced the resignation of longtime dictator Hosni Mubarak.

That revolution had been substantially frustrated by the Egyptian military, which had been allied with Mubarak and which refused to relinquish power—even as Egyptians were in the midst of exerting their unprecedented right to choose their new leader in June.

But over the weekend, the country's newly elected president, Mohammed Morsi, cashiered the top generals and restored the governing prerogatives they had taken away from him.

That this is a major moment in modern Egyptian history, there can be no doubt. Whether it will turn out to be a good thing or a bad thing, though, is up in the dusty air over Cairo.

There are certainly reasons to take Morsi's weekend measures as a victory for Egyptians who mobilized against the military regime and brought down Mubarak. After the citizens elected a new parliament dominated by Islamic parties, the Supreme Constitutional Court ruled it illegal and the generals shut it down. The military leaders also asserted their right to enact laws and to pick the members of a body assigned to draft a new constitution.

But Morsi ordered the parliament reinstated, refusing to cede one of the signal victories of the Arab Spring. Now, by getting rid of the senior generals, he appears to have established control of the government by a democratically chosen civilian—himself.

That was the first surprise of the weekend. The second was that the military appears to be accepting his decree, in contrast to its previous resistance.

Speculation has run rampant, with some concluding that Morsi has used the support of younger, reform-minded officers to get rid of Mubarak's cronies. Others, however, suspect the president has struck a backroom deal with the departing generals that will protect their interests. No one has forgotten that the military still has ample means to impede Morsi if it wants to. And the generals he has elevated to replace those he ousted may have considerable say over his policies going forward.

An equally relevant concern is that Morsi, the candidate of the Muslim Brotherhood, is planning to turn Egypt into a theocratic state along the lines of Iran. The new president has acted to consolidate an immense amount of power in his office, which could be used for bad as well as good purposes. It's by no means certain that the Muslim Brotherhood is committed to building a durable democracy that could evict it from power.

That said, any overreach by Morsi risks unleashing anew the societal forces that last year demanded freedom: There is some reassurance in knowing that while Morsi has won a round against the secular-minded military, he could provoke a military coup—or conceivably another public uprising—by pushing an extreme Islamic agenda.

And while upholding civilian authority and democratic processes is no guarantee of Morsi's long-term intentions, it's essential to creating a stable constitutional system. Our hope is that the sobering responsibilities of governing—of making citizens content with his rule—moderates any Morsi inclination to turn Cairo into a rigid Tehran West.

It has been plain since Mubarak's fall that the top generals had no desire to defer to the people who so courageously rebelled against his regime. Morsi, having come to power in the nation's first free presidential election, may someday eviscerate Egypt's fledgling democracy.

But give him credit for not letting the military do so now.

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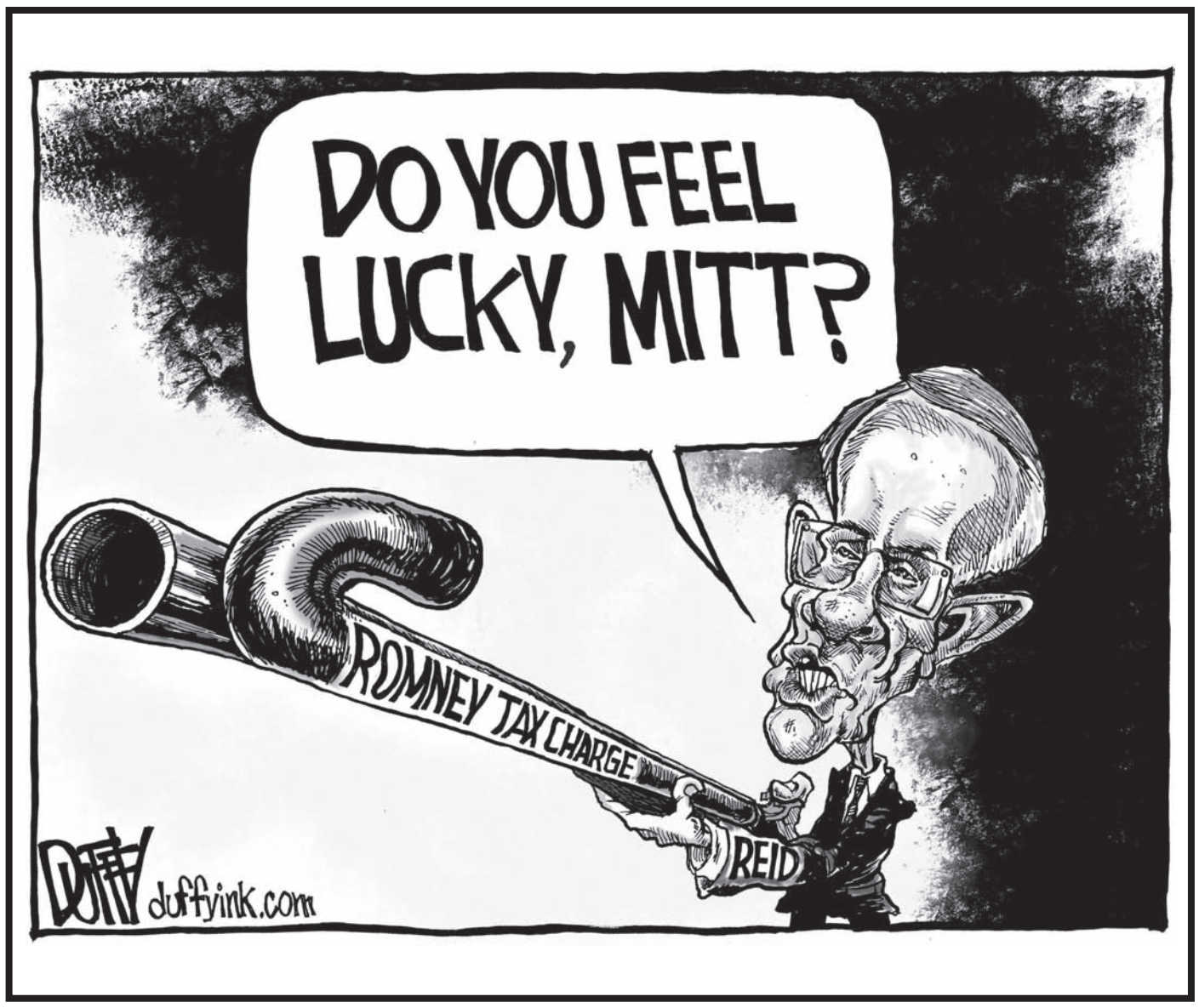

Can Romney break the Democrats' lock on the Jewish vote?

By DAN SCHNUR
Los Angeles Times

Dan Schnur is the director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics at the University of Southern California. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Have you heard the one about the Westside Jewish Republican Club? Its members take turns hosting the gatherings, and they meet each month in the host's car.

The Democrats' advantage among Jewish voters might not be quite that extreme, but there's no question that the Jewish community in this country has always leaned strongly toward the Democratic Party and its candidates. Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush achieved a high-water mark for the GOP by winning more than 30 percent of the Jewish vote during their elections in the 1980s. But in the last 20 years, no Republican presidential nominee has won even a quarter of the Jewish vote. Four years ago, Barack Obama won among Jewish voters over John McCain by a margin of 78 percent to 22 percent (a bigger margin, by 10 points, than his advantage among Latinos).

But even in the face of this vast historical imbalance, Republicans see an opportunity this year to make inroads for Jewish votes. They believe that President Obama's record on issues relating to Israel and the Middle East has created an opportunity. Recent polling by the Public Religion Research Institute shows that Jewish voters still lean strongly leftward, favoring abortion rights and same-sex marriage at almost unanimous levels, and strongly supporting Obama on most economic issues as well. But the Jewish community is much more equivocal on questions regarding the Middle East conflict, with barely one-third supporting Obama's approach on this front.

Many U.S. Jews were troubled by Obama's early insistence on a settlement freeze. They also took umbrage at his use of the emotionally charged term "occupation" in reference to the Israeli military presence in Palestinian territory in a seminal speech in Cairo during his first months in office. The ongoing coolness between Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has not helped matters, nor has the administration's emphasis on diplomacy over military engagement when it comes to Iran's nuclear facilities. It was these issues that Mitt Romney felt opened a small but important window of opportunity that made it worth his going to Israel at the end of July.

Though the media coverage of Romney's trip was dominated by his ill-chosen observations about the London Olympic Games, his stop in Jerusalem allowed him to reinforce the contrast he hopes to draw between Obama's approach to the Middle East and his own. Even Romney's comments about the link between the Palestinians' economic and cultural challenges, which drew widespread criticism from international quarters, probably did him more good than harm with Jewish voters who are dissatisfied with Obama's approach to the Middle East.

The challenges for Romney are steep, as Jewish voters remain deeply supportive of Obama's reelection. Most have decided that the president's goals on economic, environmental and social policy outweigh their reservations on Middle Eastern matters. Some also doubt that the full-throated support that Republican leaders have demonstrated for Netanyahu's Likud government represents the best path to peace. But a statistically relevant segment of the Jewish community—between 10 percent and 15 percent—has indicated a willingness to consider shifting from the Democratic to the GOP candidate this year. Even such a sizable shift would not allow Romney to win anything close to a majority of Jewish voters, but it could provide his campaign with opportunities in key swing states such as Florida, Nevada and Pennsylvania.

Take Florida. Although the state's Jewish community represents only about 4 percent the population, Jewish voters make up more than 8 percent of the electorate. In a state still known for hanging chads and butterfly ballots, and where most polls show this year's race within the margin of error, an increase in Romney's support to the levels that Reagan attracted could determine the outcome there.

Romney's campaign team also understands that Israel is a matter of critical importance to evangelical voters, many of whom are still lukewarm in their support for a Mormon candidate. Romney also hopes he'll be helped by the rapid growth in this country's Orthodox Jewish community, whose members tend to place a higher priority on the Middle East than on domestic policy.

Still, the vast majority of Jewish voters will not give Romney even a moment's consideration before casting their ballots this fall. The question is whether enough of them are sufficiently concerned by the incumbent's relationship with Israel for the challenger's trip there to make a difference.

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The bubble that will not burst

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Industrialization happens when goods are mass produced rather than individually crafted; services are systematically rendered rather than as an expression of intended care. Goods are mass produced to meet demand, space design made and implemented by an affordable labor force supported by accessible financing. China's centralized economic planning has been doing these, achieving the rapid industrialization that took decades to happen in other nations.

Housing bubbles burst when over construction occurs, and the financing of new ones to sustain growth follows a Ponzi-like type that eventually collapses in time. I wondered how China's unoccupied housing and undersubscribed commercial space have avoided collapsing the economy, depressing market prices and tightening credit.

I glimpsed why the bubble will not burst when I learned that my 4-year-old student's family bought apartments as investment eight years ago. They are still holding on to them though the units had not been occupied, nor showed any prospect of being sold. They invested in the furnishings as well, all bought from savings and short-term loans rather than long-term mortgage.

The bubble will not burst because government-secured financing maintains illusory equilibrium between supply and demand, and holds strong currency advantage over those of other countries, particularly against the dollar. The economy stays attractive to outside investors. Negative adjustment on monetary value, when it occurs, is passed on to domestic consumers.

In other words, the stock exchange in Shanghai does not find itself short of investors. In fact the country plans to open a second bourse in Shenzhen.

China's adopted a short view of the business cycle. A Belgian BMW head had difficulty meeting his mandate to build a car manufacturing plant in Shenyang to last for a century. Unless one is building another Great Wall, the built-in obsolescence in China is short.

My building at the university is new. It looks impressive from the outside, but the winterizing of its windows is a sham. The double-pane glasses are far apart because they were installed separately, with the second as an afterthought. Finesse did not come with workmanship.

Last month, I watched workers construct a four-story building next to my residence and I followed their progress from the 11th floor of my building. I saw an integration design that is modular rather than structural, e.g., drains and electrical lines are external to the basic skeleton of the building installed outside its walls.

The flush of my toilet is heard in numerous floors, as the pipes are not embedded into the wall to carry the cascading waters. In my last apartment on Saipan, there was no exhaust ventilation in the bathroom, a design lapse that assumes function can be added to the form after construction. Yup, Chinese construction.

Why is this of any importance? This is not a critique on poor construction design and implementation. Rather, it is to highlight the contrast between the classical model of producing things to last, and the model to build on programmed obsolescence. It is stark but universal in the industrial process.

Buildings in China get dated very quickly, notwithstanding the Forbidden City and the Great Wall. The design department in our university, built half a century ago in the European style, is coming down; it has become dysfunctional, and there is no attempt to preserve the aura of its era.

Built-in obsolescence in a market economy results in periods of boom and bust, and in that sense, those who can manipulate the market are at an advantage. The current scandal on how LIBOR rate has been manipulated by financial institutions is a case in point.

This may all sound theoretical but as has been shown by the unoccupied buildings in Saipan, and the U.S. housing bubble that burst in 2008, we now know that the "Field of Dreams" concept—build it and they will come—only makes good plot in the movies. In real life, one goes with real market trends and how stakeholders in any enterprise participate in establishing value. Recessions and depressions occur when a system grows ill and aims to right itself. Manipulating the market is not our beef; the fact that the current system allows only a privileged few to be privy to the task is.

Around the globe, we have allowed the captains of industries ride a financial system protected by a perpetual war promoting complex, to primarily determine how foods are packaged, clothing manufactured, buildings constructed, and alas, how minds and imagination are taught to convert what we are conditioned to want into what we need.

China's construction bubble has not burst because its middle class bought into per square meter space rather than squirrel safe gem bubbles and glittering silver and gold. The government is now just catching up to regulating housing construction so that it is tailored to the masses' purse rather than be a pyramidal investment scheme for the well-off and well-connected market manipulators.

How well the central government folks can contain a gargantuan task from bursting on its face is the challenge of the hour to the Panda that is unraveling on the seams.

For Olympians, faster, higher, stronger — no longer?

By CHRIS BERDIK
LOS ANGELES TIMES

One of the big stories of the London Olympics was that the swimming performances didn't do a collective belly flop after the 2010 ban on high-tech, full-body swimsuits. Eight swimming world records were bested in the Olympic pool. That's nowhere near the 25 swimming records surpassed four years ago in Beijing (or the 43 demolished in the 2009 World Championships). Still, it's impressive given the predictions that swim times might not rebound for a decade.

In addition to the swimming records, there were three new world records in the track competitions, four in cycling and six in weightlifting—a testament to human potential and to the Olympic creed that we can always go faster, higher, stronger.

But can we? Both the data (and logic) suggest that there are limits to human athleticism and that we're fast approaching them. The looming question: How will elite athletes (and the rest of us) respond when contests are no longer about being the best ever in a sport but rather about being the best in a round of competition?

Plot the world-record progression in swimming and track events over the last several decades and two things stand out: that human athleticism is relentlessly progressing and that the slope of improvement has been flattening in many events. For example, on July 29, Cameron van der Burgh of South Africa swam a world-record 100-meter breaststroke in 58.46. That's 2.83 seconds faster than the world's best 20 years ago. But over the previous 20 years (between 1972 and 1992) swimmers lopped 4.39 seconds off the record. Then there's Florence Griffith-Joyner's 1988 world record of 10.49 in the women's 100-meter sprint, which has stood for nearly a quarter-century.

Researchers who have crunched the numbers on more than a century of world-record and top-10 times across a wide range of sports argue that performances in a significant portion of swimming and track competitions are, or soon will be, stagnant. In a 2008 study, appropriately titled "The Citius End," Geoffroy Berthelot, a researcher at Paris' Institute for Biomedical Research and Sports Epidemiology, wrote that the statistical model he and his colleagues developed "forecasts that human species' physiological frontiers will be reached in one generation."

Then what? Defying limits has done us a lot of good, and so one idea is that we will find little ways to keep the records falling. For instance, though London's swimmers were deprived of extra-speedy suits, they were the first Olympians to have the advantage of inclined starting blocks. Indeed, many of the Olympic facilities in London were engineered for extra speed, including a water circulation system that minimized turbulence in the pool and a springier track surface.

Or, take Van der Burgh's post-race admission that he used illegal dolphin kicks during his record-setting swim. His excuse? Everybody does it. "If you're not doing it," he told a reporter for the Sydney Morning Herald, "you're falling behind." And the International Olympic Committee seems inclined to agree, having made no moves to strip Van der Burgh of his medal or scrub his record.

Similar sentiments have been heard from world-class runners and cyclists caught doping. That kind of rule-bending still has serious consequences, at least for now, but many people argue that anti-doping efforts are beset by double standards and that it's going to be extremely difficult to keep chemical and other scientific enhancements out of sports. An article in last month's edition of the journal Nature mused about the many ways science could help athletes topple human limits, including gene therapy, bionic limbs and better, safer drugs. The article quoted Scottish bioethicist Andy Miah, who suggested a "World Pro-Doping Agency" to "invest in safer forms of enhancement."

Another idea is to time races to the thousandth of a second. It won't make people swim or run any faster, but it could keep the record-breaking going a while longer. In the rarefied atmosphere of athletic world records, time is elastic. The number of seconds (or thousandths of a second) is much less important than the meaning we invest in them. That meaning is simply this: We can do better.

That was the message nearly 60 years ago when England hosted one of history's most remarkable record-breaking runs. On a damp May day at Oxford in 1954, Roger Bannister ran a mile in under 4 minutes. He beat a record that had stood for nine years. But he wasn't just faster; he broke through a barrier and busted myths of impossibility. That's why Bannister is remembered and John Landy, who beat his record less than two months later, isn't.

Then again, maybe it won't matter when the records stop falling. After all, the sprint events at the track are among the Olympics' marquee competitions, scheduled for prime-time television viewing and watched by millions, even though world records have slowed to a trickle. The three world records set in London are about par for the last two decades of Olympics. These are still races pitting the fastest humans alive against one another, and watching that kind of determination provides awesome human drama, sparked by intense rivalries, international bragging rights and champions defending their crowns. These athletes compete fiercely. They run in the shadow of past Olympic disasters and prevail. They finish races even after tearing an Achilles tendon or breaking a leg.

Thanks in large part to the amazing feats of Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt, world records in the track's sprint events still seem vulnerable. The possibility that we will witness the best ever still crackles over many elite, international finals.

One day, perhaps sooner than we think, it may not. Will we still tune in to watch? I will.

Chris Berdik is a science journalist and the author of the forthcoming book "Mind Over Mind: The Surprising Power of Expectations." He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Letter to the Editor

Placing blame

The blame for the current problems of the CNMI should be placed directly on those who voted for Benigno R. Fitial to become governor. I often think about how the CNMI might have been a different place if someone else had been elected. I attended many of the meetings of the 16th Legislature and I saw first hand that many legislators had good ideas about how to fix our problems. In contrast, Mr. Fitial has had poor ideas that usually ended up with him declaring a "State of Emergency" (SOE) that does not solve any problems, the SOEs just delayed the problems.

Recently, I received an e-mail letter from an unknown author that I thought applied directly to the CNMI. I just inserted a few terms that made it apply to us, here it is below.

"The danger to the CNMI is not Benigno R. Fitial, but a citizenry capable of entrusting a man like him with the governorship. It will be far easier to limit and undo the follies of a Fitial governorship than to restore the necessary common sense and good judgment to a depraved electorate willing to have such a man for their governor. The problem is much deeper and far more serious than Mr. Fitial, who is a mere symptom of what ails the CNMI. Blaming the prince of the fools should not blind anyone to the vast confederacy of fools that deemed him their prince. The Commonwealth can survive a Benigno Fitial, who is, after all, merely a fool. It is less likely to survive a multitude of fools, such as those who made him their governor."

Change only comes then the people change. The people seem to keep doing the same things over and over! We may even get another "Fitial" type person as our new governor in two years if the people do not wake up and face the fact: everything governor Fitial (and his politician friends) touch get dirty.I pray that the people change to help themselves to: save their quality of life, culture and traditions, follow the rule of law, and protect the health of the people of the CNMI. Most of the people in the CNMI are not fools, but if they cannot learn from the recent past and change, this statement may be open to question.

We have passed the tipping point if change does not happen now it may be too late for this generation.

Frank Stewart
Capital Hill

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲88 ° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

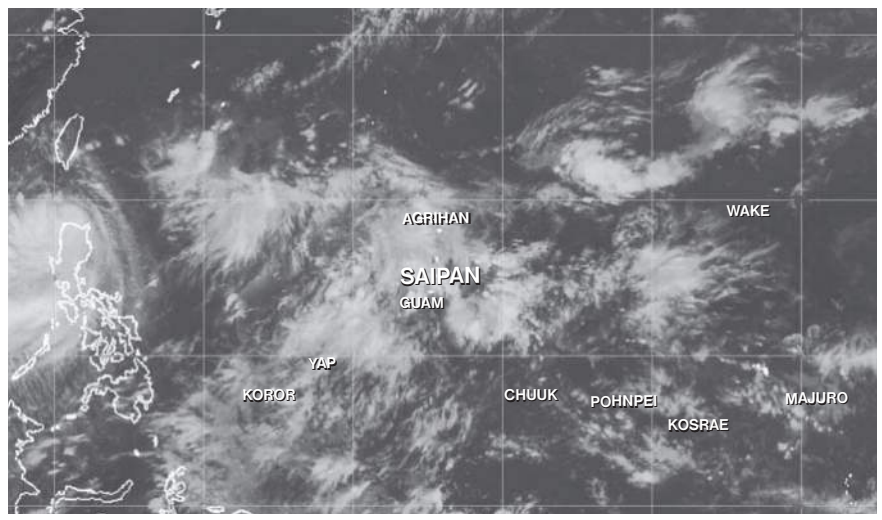
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼76
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲59	▼49
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼68
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲92	▼82
Honolulu	Sunny	▲86	▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲22	▼17
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲89	▼67
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84	▼78
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼45
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼78
New York	Thundershowers	▲82	▼68
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲93	▼78
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼61
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Rome	Sunny	▲93	▼70
Salem	Sunny	▲97	▼63
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼54
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲86	▼75
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲93	▼79
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲88	▼70

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from 23N130E to 25N142E. Converging low-level winds near the trough are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of Iwo to island, or west of a line from 24N133E to 20N136E to 17N134E. A surface trough heads southeastward from 10N132E to EQ142E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the Marianas within 180 miles of a line from 10N140E to 21N145E.Converging low-level winds are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Yap and Palau between the equator and 10N from 130E to 140E, west of Chuuk within 120 miles of a line from 10N144E to 3N147E, and finally northeast of Majuro within 100 miles of a line from 10N172E to 10N180. A surface trough curves northeastward from 21N153E to beyond 25N at 157E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found northwest of Wake Island, or within 100 miles of a line from 23n153e to 21n158e to 25n164e.Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of the marianas, or between 11n and 17n from 147e to 164e.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:39 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
6:47 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:01 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
8:45 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Thursday	6:03 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:39 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:38 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Thursday	4:27 AM	5:25 PM
Friday	5:21 AM	6:09 PM
Saturday	6:15 AM	6:52 PM
Sunday	7:09 AM	7:35 PM
Monday	8:04 AM	8:19 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Bank settles Iran money probe in NY for $340M

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—The state's financial regulator said Tuesday his agency has reached a $340 million settlement with Standard Chartered Bank to resolve an investigation into whether the British bank schemed with the Iranian government to launder $250 billion from 2001 to 2007.

The bank will pay the civil penalty to the state and will strengthen oversight of overseas transactions, state Department of Financial Services Superintendent Benjamin Lawsky said.

Standard Chartered spokeswoman Julie Gibson noted the New York announcement set out the terms of an agreement, including payment of $340 million, and a formal agreement with details is expected shortly.

Standard Charter will install for at least two years a monitor who will evaluate the money laundering risk controls of its New York branch and take corrective measures, Lawsky said. It also will permanently install personnel to oversee and audit offshore money laundering monitoring, the agency said, and agency examiners will be placed at the bank.

A department hearing on the issue scheduled for Wednesday in New York City has been adjourned. The date for the civil payment, which will go to the state's general fund, has not been set.

Federal Reserve spokeswoman Barbara Hagenbaugh said the Fed "continues to work with the other agencies on a comprehensive resolution."

The U.S. imposes financial sanctions on political enemies to hinder their access to the global financial system. The goal is to choke off banks and other sources of capital, limiting their economic growth and their ability to buy weapons, food and other items available through global trade. Sanctions ensure that U.S. banks don't get involved.

Several other non-U.S. banks with operations in the United States have settled sanctions cases with U.S. authorities in recent years. Dutch bank ING Bank NV agreed in June to pay $619 million to settle charges that it secretly moved billions of dollars through the U.S. financial system on behalf of Iranian and Cuban customers.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance has been investigating Standard Chartered, with federal partners, for more than a year. His office declined to comment on the settlement.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said the result showed the effectiveness of the state's recently formed Department of Financial Services, which combined banking and insurance regulation in one agency.

"This state and nation are still paying the price for a failed regulatory system, and that must not happen again," he said.

Standard Chartered Bank said Monday it "strongly rejects" and "contests" the New York regulators' portrayal of its transactions with Iranian banks.

AP

In this Aug. 7, 2012 file photo, a man walks past the headquarters of Standard Chartered bank in London.

Higher retail spending lifts hopes for US economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans increased their retail spending in July by the most in five months, opening their wallets after a frugal spring and offering hope that the slumping economy may rebound in the second half of the year.

Retail spending rose in every major category, from electronics and sporting goods to furniture, building supplies and garden equipment. The report from the government followed one earlier this month that showed hiring strengthened in July.

Overall retail sales rose 0.8 percent from June to July, the Commerce Department said. It was the sharpest increase since February, and it followed three months of declines.

The stepped-up spending was evident in a flurry of retail earnings reports for the second quarter, which ended in late July.

Home Depot, the nation's largest home improvement retailer, said healthy sales of paint, bathroom accessories and kitchen installations helped lift its net income 12 percent.

Macy's raised its annual earnings guidance last week after reporting a 16 percent increase in net income in the second quarter. Macy's executives specifically cited a pickup in their teen clothing business, which had been weak.

TJX Cos., which sells discounted brand names under such store banners as T.J. Maxx and HomeGoods, said its second-quarter net income jumped 21 percent on better same-store sales.

"People are spending a little more and feeling a little better about the economy," said James Donnelly, a sales associate at Boston-based Tadpole, which sells infant wear, children's clothing and toys.

Donnelly says he's seen an increase in business and traffic in recent weeks. The store has run 40 percent discounts on summer merchandise. Shoppers are also buying some back-to-school items, like backpacks and clothing.

Americans appear to be taking their cues from the economy's modest but steady improvements.

Employers added 163,000 jobs in July, the best month for job growth since February. Home prices are up. The value of U.S. exports reached a record high last month. U.S. consumers are expressing more confidence. And stock indexes are near their highs for the year.

"I am looking for a better second half of the year, in part because I think business will become more confident, and they will increase their hiring," said Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors.

Naroff predicts the government will revise growth in the April-June quarter to an annual rate of 2 percent, up from the 1.5 percent reported last month. He predicts growth will then accelerate to 2.6 percent in the July-September quarter and 3.3 percent in the final three months of the year.

Luxury cars do poorly in new crash tests

DETROIT (AP)—Most midsize luxury cars—including the Mercedes-Benz C-Class—performed poorly in a new frontal crash test developed by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

The new test is designed to replicate what happens when a car strikes another car or a fixed object like a tree or utility pole. The test strikes 25 percent of a car's front end into a five-foot rigid barrier at 40 miles per hour.

The results don't bode well for non-luxury models, which will be the next to undergo the new test. Insurance Institute crash test results are closely watched by the auto industry and often lead to changes in design or safety features. Good scores are also frequently touted in car ads.

Of the 11 cars tested, only the Acura TL, Volvo S60 and Infiniti G earned good or acceptable ratings from the institute, which is funded by insurers.

Four cars—the Acura TSX, BMW 3 Series, Lincoln MKZ and Volkswagen CC—earned marginal ratings. Four others—the Mercedes C-Class, Lexus IS 250, Audi A4 and Lexus ES 350—earned poor ratings. Marginal or poor ratings indicate the cars wouldn't protect occupants very well in a real-world crash.

All of the cars tested were from the 2012 model year.

The institute said the new test indicates that side air bags—which are designed for direct impact, T-bone crashes but not for off-center, frontal ones—may not go off in time or extend far enough to protect occupants. In three cars—the BMW, Mercedes and Volkswagen—the seat belts spooled out too much after the crash, causing the crash-test dummies to strike hard surfaces. The Volkswagen's door was completely sheared off during the test.

Mercedes said it didn't agree with its ranking and pointed out that the C-Class is listed as one of the institute's top safety picks. Mercedes said the crash test mimics an unusually severe and uncommon scenario.

"As a leader in automotive safety, we have full confidence in the protection that the C-Class affords its occupants—and less confidence in any test that doesn't reflect that," Mercedes said in a statement.

Toyota Motor Co., which owns the Lexus brand, accepted the results.

"With this new test, the Institute has raised the bar again and we will respond to this challenge as we design new vehicles," Toyota said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Australian court OKs logo ban on cigarette packs

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's highest court upheld the world's toughest law on cigarette promotion on Wednesday despite protests from tobacco companies that argued the value of their trademarks will be destroyed under new rules that will strip all logos from cigarette packs. The decision by the High Court means that starting in December, tobacco companies will no longer be able to display their distinctive colors, brand designs and logos on cigarette packs. The packs will instead come in a uniformly drab shade of olive and feature graphic health warnings and images of cancer-riddled mouths, blinded eyeballs and sickly children. The government hopes the new packs will make smoking as unglamorous as possible. "This is a victory for all those families who have lost someone to a tobacco-related illness. For anyone who has ever lost someone, this is for you," Attorney General Nicola Roxon and Health Minister Tanya Plibersek said in a joint statement. "No longer when a smoker pulls out a packet of cigarettes will that packet be a mobile billboard."

Facebook insiders can sell stock as 'lock-up' ends

MENLO PARK, Calif. (AP)—Facebook's early investors and a handful of directors will become eligible on Thursday to sell stock they own in the social networking company. It marks the beginning of a time-honored process for public companies, one that will give many Facebook employees the same right to sell their shares this fall. It's conceivable none of them will sell. But if they do, up to 1.91 billion more shares could flood the stock market over the next several months - more than four times the 421 million shares that have been trading since Facebook's initial public offering in May. So-called "lock-up" periods, which prevent insiders from unloading shares too close to an IPO, generally start to expire 90 days after a stock makes its public debut.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
13,172.10	1,403.93	3,016.98
+2.71	-0.18	-5.54
0.02%	-0.01%	-0.18%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9546	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7568	Philippine Peso	42.0723
British Pound	0.6381	Indian Rupee	55.66	Singapore Dollar	1.249
Canadian Dollar	0.9921	Indonesian Rupiah	9511.88	South Korean Won	1132.97
Chinese Yuan	6.3608	Japanese Yen	78.788	Swiss Franc	0.9746
Euro	0.8114	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1277	Taiwan Dollar	29.9617
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2419	Thailand Baht	31.5

Nation

Debate joined on Medicare; Romney, Obama go at it

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mitt Romney accused President Barack Obama in person and in TV advertising Tuesday of cutting Medicare "to pay for Obamacare," launching a strong counterattack to Democratic charges that he and running mate Paul Ryan would radically remake the popular health care program that serves tens of millions of seniors.

The charge drew a blistering response from Obama's campaign, which labeled the ad dishonest and hypocritical.

Obama "has taken $716 billion out of the Medicare trust fund. He's raided that trust fund," Romney said at a campaign stop in Beallsville, Ohio, as he neared the end of a multi-state bus trip punctuated by his weekend selection of a ticket mate.

"And you know what he did with it? He's used it to pay for Obamacare, a risky, unproven, federal takeover of health care. And If I'm president of the United States, we're putting the $716 billion back," he said.

Aides said a commercial containing the same allegation would begin airing immediately in several battleground states, although they declined to provide details.

In a campaign without summer doldrums, the rival sets of ticket mates campaigned in a half-dozen of the most hotly contested states, in settings as diverse as a coal mine in Ohio (Romney); a wind farm in Iowa (Obama) and a casino in Nevada (Ryan.)

Vice President Joe Biden stirred controversy in Virginia when he said the Republicans would favor the big banks over the interests of consumers. He said Romney has said he is "going to let the big banks once again write their own rules. Unchain Wall Street."

Hundreds of black voters were in the audience that Biden told, "They're going to put y'all back in chains."

Romney's campaign reacted strongly to that, saying the comments were "not acceptable in our political discourse and demonstrate yet again that the Obama campaign will say and do anything to win this election." Biden later conceded using the wrong word but dismissed the Republican criticism and did not apologize.

At a speech closing his bus tour, Romney delivered a sweeping indictment of Obama's campaign. "Mr. President, take your campaign of division and anger and hate back to Chicago," he said in Chillicothe, Ohio, insisting that Obama had abandoned his 2008 campaign's messages of hope and change. The Obama campaign said Romney's comments seemed "unhinged."

The tempest over Biden's remark was modest compared to the building struggle over Medicare.

Romney's criticism on that subject appeared an attempt to gain some measure of control over an issue likely to play a significant role in the outcome of the election. Florida, Pennsylvania and Iowa are among the top five states in the country in the percentage of people 65 and over, and all three are battleground states.

AP

President Barack Obama shields the spotlight from his eyes as he works the crowd after his campaign speech, Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2012, in Marshalltown, Iowa.

DHS launches new immigration program

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration on Tuesday directed young illegal immigrants to fill out new forms and pay $465 if they want to apply under a new program that would let them avoid deportation and obtain a U.S. work permit.

The government renewed warnings that the process wouldn't lead to citizenship or give them permission to travel internationally. It will begin accepting immigrants' applications Wednesday.

The paperwork for the program, known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, can be downloaded from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website, said the agency's director, Alejandro Mayorkas. Applicants must pay a $465 fee and provide proof of identity and eligibility.

Under guidelines that the administration announced Tuesday, the agency said proof of identity and eligibility under the program could include a passport or birth certificate, school transcripts, medical and financial records and military service records. DHS said that in some instances, multiple sworn affidavits, signed by a third party under penalty of perjury, could also be used.

With the start of the program nearing, immigrants have been working on getting their paperwork in order. Tuesday morning, 23-year-old Evelyn Medina, from Tegucigalpa, Honduras, was in line at that country's consulate in Washington about 6:30 a.m. to secure a passport. With her passport in hand, Medina was all smiles as she walked out of the building just before 2 p.m., saying "finally" as she clutched the document.

Medina said she has been in the United States for about 10 years and is currently a student at a Maryland college, hoping to eventually earn a master's degree and become a social worker.

She wasn't alone. Leonardo Irias Navas, head of the consular section at the Embassy of Honduras, said the number of people applying for passports has more than doubled in the last week.

A decision on each application could take several months, and immigrants have been warned not to leave the country while their application is pending. If they are allowed to stay in the United States and want to travel internationally, they will need to apply for permission to come back into the country, a request that would cost $360 more.

The administration announced the plan in June to stop deporting many illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children. To be eligible, immigrants must prove they arrived in the United States before they turned 16, are 30 or younger, have been living here at least five years, and are in school or graduated or served in the military. They also cannot have been convicted of certain crimes or otherwise pose a safety threat.

Mayorkas said being approved to avoid deportation "does not provide lawful status or a path to citizenship."

The announcement came just months before what is shaping up to be a tight contest for the White House. President Barack Obama has come under fire by Hispanic voters and others who have say he hasn't fulfilled a previous campaign promise to reform the nation's immigration laws. The policy change could stop deportations for more than a million young illegal immigrants who would have qualified for the failed DREAM Act, which Obama has supported in the past.

Family: Texas shootout gunman had mental illness

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)—In the months leading up to Monday's shootout near Texas A&M University that killed three, gunman Thomas Alton Caffall III had cut off contact with his family, even though his mother was seriously ill.

Caffall's family said the 35-year-old told them he had his own issues, an unspecified mental illness they declined to comment on.

Caffall

On Monday, Caffall opened fire on a law enforcement officer who was trying to serve him with a court summons for being two months behind on rent. The officer was killed.

Police said officers shot and killed Caffall during the 30-minute shootout. A bystander also died and four others were wounded; police did not say whose gunfire struck them.

"It breaks our hearts his illness led to this," Caffall's family said in a statement released through an attorney.

Authorities continued their investigation Tuesday, saying Caffall was in possession of multiple weapons and fired numerous times.

W. Tyler Moore, the family's attorney, had known Caffall since he was 4 years old.

"He wasn't the same kid that he used to be, let's just say that," Moore said. "He was sweet, very bright, good sense of humor, just a good kid, a sweet kid."

Moore said the Caffall he used to know may have surfaced when, just before dying, Caffall offered an apology to the officer he had fatally shot.

College Station Police Chief Jeff Capps said Tuesday that Caffall had "some long guns and pistols" in his home, but would not give details and did not say whether the weapons had been obtained legally.

"The crime scene is still being processed," Capps said.

Capps said he wasn't aware of any previous law enforcement contact with the gunman.

Just after noon Monday, College Station police fielded frantic 911 calls about gunfire in the neighborhood near the university's football stadium. Responding officers found Brazos County Constable Brian Bachmann, 41, shot on the lawn of the house.

"Either upon approach to the house or shortly after, it appears he was shot by the suspect," Capps said Tuesday.

Bachmann had volunteered to deliver a notice for Caffall to appear in court on Aug. 23 because he was at least two months behind paying his rent, owing $1,250, said Michael McCleary, a justice of the peace in Brazos County.

"Another deputy was planning on taking the (notice), but Brian grabbed it from him and said, `I'll take it.' He enjoyed doing it," McCleary said.

Before Caffall was taken from the scene, Rigo Cisneros, a neighbor and former medic, treated him.

ACROSS THE NATION

Child dies as blast levels house in NY suburb

BRENTWOOD, N.Y. (AP)—An apparent explosion has destroyed a house in a Long Island suburb of New York City, killing a child and injuring 17 others. Suffolk County police say surrounding houses also were damaged during the blast Tuesday in Brentwood. Police say 18-month-old Rah-quan Palmer was killed. His parents, residents, a plumber, insurance agent and several rescuers were also injured. A fire official says propane was being investigated as a possible cause. Neighbors many blocks away felt their own homes shake.

Police: Doc's waterboarding possibly an experiment

DOVER, Del. (AP)—A Delaware pediatrician who achieved national recognition for his research into near-death experiences involving children may have been experimenting on his 11-year-old stepdaughter by waterboarding her, police said in court documents. The possible link between Dr. Melvin Morse's research and the waterboarding allegations was revealed in an affidavit for a search warrant for Morse's computers. The document was obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press. According to the affidavit, Dr. Melvin Morse brought the girl "to a possible near death state from the simulation of drowning." "This `waterboarding' that he has performed ... would fall into the area of study he practices," police said in the affidavit. "It is logical that he has therefore written about and/or researched the topic of `waterboarding.'"

Group: Scrabble player caught cheating at US event

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—One of the top young Scrabble players in the country has been kicked out of the game's national championship tournament in Florida after he was caught hiding blank letter tiles, organizers said Tuesday. John D. Williams, Jr., executive director of the National Scrabble Association, said that a male player was ejected from the 350-player event in Round 24 of the 28-round event. The cheating was spotted by a player at a nearby table, who noticed the ejected player conceal a pair of blank tiles by dropping them on the floor, organizers said. Blank tiles can be used as wild card letters. When confronted by the tournament director, he admitted to it, organizers said. Williams, who has served as executive director for 25 years and co-authored a book on the popular Hasbro board game in 1993, said this was the first incident of cheating at a national tournament. However, he said it's been known to occur at smaller, regional events.

Asia

New storm hits north PH; at least 2 dead

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A second tropical storm in as many weeks battered the northern Philippines on Wednesday, killing at least two people, as forecasters warned that the still-reeling capital could see more flooding.

Meanwhile, President Benigno Aquino III scrambled to avert another crisis when hundreds of state weather agency employees protested over their pay and warned that forecasting services could deteriorate.

Tropical Storm Kai-Tak slammed ashore Wednesday morning in northeastern Isabela province with maximum winds of 100 kilometers (60 miles) per hour and higher gusts. It is expected to traverse northern farming provinces and exit along Luzon Island's western seaboard possibly as a powerful typhoon heading toward southern China in the direction of Hong Kong.

The head of the disaster-relief agency, Benito Ramos, reported two deaths, including a man who drowned while swimming in Ilocos Norte province. He said that some roads were flooded knee-deep and government forecasters warned of intense rains that may drench the sprawling capital city that is still reeling from last week's monsoon deluge.

On Tuesday, an alarmed Aquino rushed to assure the protesting weather agency employees that steps were being taken to resume payment of the cash benefits that had been suspended in March.

"I just reminded that since the weather is bad and we have a weather disturbance, we should not add to the worries of those who were hit by the floods," Aquino told reporters after a hasty meeting with the restive employees.

AP

Flood affected residents gather under the rain as they queue for relief goods in suburban Marikina, east of Manila, Philippines on Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2012.

Forecasters and other employees of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration wore black arm bands and hoisted streamers urging the government to resume hazard pay and other allowances.

While the workers did not plan any work stoppage, protest leader Ramon Agustin said some hard-up employees have failed to report for work due to lack of money.

"The only reason why we remain strong in performing our tasks is our pure love for the country, but this would eventually weaken," Agustin said in a news conference at the weather agency, which buzzed with activity as forecasters tracked the second storm.

The archipelago located in the tropical far western Pacific serves like a welcome mat for about 20 tropical storms and typhoons that develop in the open ocean and blow toward Asia every year. Heavy rain from those storms and the annual monsoon often cause flooding and landslides and leave a trail of death and destruction.

Relentless rains for nearly two weeks culminated in last week's two-day deluge that submerged Manila and outlying farming provinces, killing nearly 100 people dead and displacing more than 400,000.

Budget Secretary Florencio Abad said payment of the hazard pay and other cash benefits were suspended to correct past irregularities, but added the workers would get back the benefits soon.

Agustin said the employees have lost an average of 10,000 pesos ($238) monthly since the benefits were suspended by officials in March.

China blames West for UN discord on Syrian war

BEIJING (AP)—China on Wednesday accused some Western countries of seeking regime change in Syria and blamed their increasing support for rebel forces in the civil war there as hurting the solidarity of the U.N. Security Council.

The remarks in the official People's Daily newspaper came as China hosted an envoy of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad for talks. No details of the talks were released Wednesday.

China and Russia have repeatedly used their veto power at the U.N. Security Council to block strong Western- and Arab-backed action against Assad. Moscow is a key ally of Assad, and China cites its own stance against military intervention.

The Communist Party's People's Daily repeated China's position that the only solution to the Syrian crisis is a political one and criticized some Western countries' open discussion of a no-fly zone as undermining a multilateral approach led by outgoing U.N. peace envoy Kofi Annan.

"This destroys the internal unity of the Security Council, causing the international community to be unable to reach consensus and for Annan's mediation efforts to be unable to play a role," the paper said in a commentary.

"All kinds of indications show that the rumors that some Western powers are looking outside the framework of the United Nations for a solution to the Syrian problem are not baseless," it said.

China's Foreign Ministry said Tuesday that Assad's political and media adviser, Buthaina Shaaban, was to meet with Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi for talks. It also said it was considering inviting members of Syrian opposition groups to visit.

Yang was expected to reiterate calls for both sides in Syria to implement Annan's six-point peace plan to end the fighting that has killed an estimated 20,000 people over the last 18 months. Annan is resigning at the end of the month due to his failure to achieve even a temporary cease-fire in the civil war.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Tuesday that Washington hopes China will encourage the Assad regime to end the violence and comply with Annan's peace plan.

Unlike Russia, China does not have longstanding strategic ties to Assad's government, but Beijing opposes setting precedents that could potentially be applied to its troubled western regions of Tibet and Xinjiang. China feels burned by Western intervention in Libya, believing that the U.S. and European powers over-interpreted a U.N. resolution to attack the government of Moammar Gadhafi, not just protect Libyan civilians.

In Washington, U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said plans to set up a no-fly zone over parts of Syria were "not on the front burner," despite persistent calls from rebel forces there that they need the added protection from escalating regime airstrikes.

US warns of divisive diplomacy in South China Sea

WASHINGTON (AP)—China should not use bilateral talks to attempt to "divide and conquer" nations with competing territorial claims in the South China Sea, the United States said Tuesday.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland's comments follow a visit by Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi to two of those states, Malaysia and Brunei.

Nuland would not say whether the U.S. suspects Beijing's intentions in those talks. A meeting last month of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, ended in acrimony over the South China Sea, as host Cambodia, a close China ally, refused to sign off on language sought by the Philippines and Vietnam mentioning their individual disputes with China.

"What we're most concerned about at the moment is that tensions are going up among the stakeholders so we want to see a commitment to a deal that meets the needs of all," Nuland told a news conference in Washington.

The U.S. and China are increasingly at odds on the issue. Earlier this month, the U.S. criticized China's establishment of a municipality and military garrison on a remote island in the South China Sea as risking an escalation in tensions.

China has pushed back, and on Monday, state-run news agency Xinhua published a commentary criticizing Western nations of "betting on a divided Asia" because of the region's economic vitality while their own economies are waning.

Nuland said the U.S. is urging ASEAN and China to work on a code of conduct for the South China Sea, which has some of the world's busiest sea lanes and are believed to have vast energy deposits.

She said bilateral diplomacy supporting a multilateral deal is fine, "but an effort to divide and conquer and end up with a competitive situation among the different claimants is not going to get where we need to go."

China has long said it wants to handle disputes over its claims bilaterally, rather than in multilaterally, although during a stop in Indonesia before visiting Malaysia and Brunei, foreign minister Yang said China was also willing "on the basis of consensus" to work toward the eventual adoption of a code of conduct.

The U.S. says it does not take a position on the competing territorial claims in the South China Sea, but as a Pacific power has a national interest in the maintenance of peace and security there.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan marks 67th anniversary of WWII's end

TOKYO (AP)—Japan marked the 67th anniversary of its World War II surrender with a somber ceremony in the capital Wednesday, while renewed tension over territorial disputes and animosity over its wartime actions heated up in neighboring countries. Renewing Japan's pledge to maintain its war-renouncing policy, Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda mourned for the war dead and apologized to victims of Japanese wartime atrocities. "We have caused tremendous damage and pain to many countries, particularly the Asian people, during the war. We deeply regret that and sincerely mourn for those who were sacrificed and their relatives," Noda said. "We will not repeat the same mistake." Emperor Akihito, whose father made the unprecedented 1945 national radio address announcing the war could not be won, also offered prayers for the dead.

Grenades at east Afghan mosque wound 9 praying

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An official says three grenades were thrown into a mosque compound during morning prayers in eastern Afghanistan, wounding at least nine worshippers. Wednesday's attack in Khost province comes a day after a series of bombs across Afghanistan killed 46 people. It was the deadliest day for civilians this year. The Khost police chief says one of the grenades exploded inside the mosque itself in Baghi Sara area. Two others landed in the courtyard outside and one of those failed to detonate. The police chief, Sardar Mohammad Zazai, blamed Taliban insurgents.

HK activists' boat nears disputed islands

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong activists trying to reach disputed islands claimed by Japan, China and Taiwan say they're being tailed by Japanese government ships. A spokesman for the activists said their fishing boat was 35-40 nautical miles from the islands in the East China Sea at about midday Wednesday. David Ko said the activists would try to land on the islands to claim sovereignty for China, but that they were being followed by six Japanese government vessels that could try to stop them.

World

Pentagon: Iran building, training militia in Syria

WASHINGTON (AP)—Iran is playing a growing role supporting the Syrian regime and is helping to build and train a militia to fight opposition forces, U.S. defense officials said Tuesday.

Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Pentagon reporters that the militia, which is generally made up of Syrian Shiite forces, is being used to take the pressure off the Syrian regime forces, which have been at war for almost 18 months.

"Any army would be taxed with that kind of pace," Dempsey said. "They are having re-supply problems, they are having morale problems, they are having the kind of wear-and-tear that would come of being in a fight for as long as they have."

AP

In this June 29, 2012 file photo, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, left, accompanied by Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey, gestures during a news conference at the Pentagon.

■ ■ ■ ■

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Syrian state-run TV says a bomb has exploded near a fuel truck outside a hotel where U.N. observers are staying in the capital, Damascus.

The TV says Wednesday's explosion wounded at least three people. None of them were believed to be U.N. staff.

An AP reporter at the scene says the blast went off inside the parking lot belonging to a military compound near the Dama Rose Hotel, popular with the U.N. observers in Syria.

The hotel was slightly damaged in the blast, with some of its windows shattered. A Labor Union building across from the hotel was also damaged and black smoke was seen billowing into the sky.

■ ■ ■ ■

Dempsey also said that it appears Syrian rebels were able to shoot down a Syrian warplane, but said he has seen no indication that they are armed with heavy weapons or surface-to-air missiles, at least not yet.

He says the MiG fighter could have been shot down with small arms fire. Syria has blamed the crash on a technical malfunction, but Dempsey said the cause "didn't appear to be mechanical."

Dempsey and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta voiced concerns about Iran's growing presence in Syria, even as President Bashar Assad's regime steps up its aerial attacks against the rebel forces. Fierce fighting and attacks from warplanes and helicopter gunships have pushed the opposition forces back in key fronts, such as Aleppo.

And the fighting—including alleged massacres by the regime—have led to the deaths of more than 20,000, according to activists.

Panetta said it has become obvious that Iran is doing more for the Syrian regime, including providing assistance and training.

"We do not think that Iran ought to be playing that role at this moment in time," the defense secretary said. He said that "it's dangerous, that it's adding to the killing that's going on in Syria and that it tries to bolster a regime that we think ultimately is going to come down."

Asked about military options for intervention in Syria, Dempsey said the U.S. has been in discussions with Jordan and Turkey about the possible need for a safe zone, because the two countries neighboring Syria are seeing an influx of refugees fleeing the fighting.

"And with a safe haven would probably come some form of no-fly zone, but we're not planning anything unilaterally," Dempsey said.

Panetta repeated assertions he made during an Associated Press interview Monday, saying that right now, creating a no-fly zone in the region "is not a front-burner issue" for the U.S. Instead, he said, the U.S. is focusing on providing humanitarian and non-lethal assistance and on ensuring the chemical and biological weapons in Syria are secure.

A no-fly zone is a militarily enforced area in which outside nations would prohibit Syrian warplanes from flying and attacking its own people.

Hungary far-right leader discovers Jewish roots

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP)—As a rising star in Hungary's far-right Jobbik Party, Csanad Szegedi was notorious for his incendiary comments on Jews: He accused them of "buying up" the country, railed about the "Jewishness" of the political elite and claimed Jews were desecrating national symbols.

Then came a revelation that knocked him off his perch as ultra-nationalist standard-bearer: Szegedi himself is a Jew.

Following weeks of Internet rumors, Szegedi acknowledged in June that his grandparents on his mother's side were Jews—making him one too under Jewish law, even though he doesn't practice the faith. His grandmother was an Auschwitz survivor and his grandfather a veteran of forced labor camps.

Since then, the 30-year-old has become a pariah in Jobbik and his political career is on the brink of collapse. He declined to be interviewed for this story.

At the root of the drama is an audio tape of a 2010 meeting between Szegedi and a convicted felon. Szegedi acknowledges that the meeting took place but contends the tape was altered in unspecified ways; Jobbik considers it real.

Mendez

In the recording, the felon is heard confronting Szegedi with evidence of his Jewish roots. Szegedi sounds surprised, then offers money and favors in exchange for keeping quiet.

Under pressure, Szegedi resigned last month from all party positions and gave up his Jobbik membership. That wasn't good enough for the party: Last week it asked him to give up his seat in the European Parliament as well. Jobbik says its issue is the suspected bribery, not his Jewish roots.

Szegedi came to prominence in 2007 as a founding member of the Hungarian Guard, a group whose black uniforms and striped flags recalled the Arrow Cross, a pro-Nazi party which briefly governed Hungary at the end of World War II and killed thousands of Jews. In all, 550,000 Hungarian Jews were killed during the Holocaust, most of them after being sent in trains to death camps like Auschwitz. The Hungarian Guard was banned by the courts in 2009.

By then, Szegedi had already joined the Jobbik Party, which was launched in 2003 to become the country's biggest far-right political force. He soon became one of its most vocal and visible members, and a pillar of the party leadership. Since 2009, he has served in the European Parliament in Brussels as one of the party's three EU lawmakers, a position he says he wants to keep.

The fallout of Szegedi's ancestry saga has extended to his business interests. Jobbik executive director Gabor Szabo is pulling out of an Internet site selling nationalist Hungarian merchandise that he owns with Szegedi. Szabo said his sister has resigned as Szegedi's personal assistant.

In the 2010 tape, former convict Zoltan Ambrus is heard telling Szegedi that he has documents proving Szegedi is Jewish. The right-wing politician seems genuinely surprised by the news—and offers EU funds and a possible EU job to Ambrus to hush it up.

Violent S. Africa mine protest leads to fatalities

MARIKANA, South Africa (AP)—Thousands of angry South African workers met Tuesday on a rocky cliff within sight of their platinum mine shuttered by violent protests, shouting demands for more pay over the roar of circling police and military helicopters.

As authorities pleaded for calm, the men trekked there from the simple hostels and shacks near the Lonmin PLC mine, carrying pipes, clubs and machetes across the barren fields with high-tension electrical wires overhead.

As the workers met, the body of a middle-aged man who had been bludgeoned to death was found about 100 meters (yards) away. Police were investigating the crime, but the man appeared to be the 10th person killed at the Lonmin mine in unrest that is gripping South Africa's mining industry.

The rage involves longtime struggles and low pay faced by miners in a nation whose economy depends on cheap labor pulling precious minerals from the ground. A struggle between two labor unions also has been blamed.

The unrest at the Lonmin mine began Friday, as some 3,000 workers walked off the job over pay in what management described as an illegal strike.

Those who tried to work Saturday were attacked, management and the National Union of Mineworkers said.

On Sunday, the rage became deadly as a crowd killed two security guards there by setting their car ablaze, authorities said.

By Monday, angry mobs killed two other workers and overpowered police, killing two officers, officials said. Officers opened fire, killing three others, police said.

Operations appeared to come to a standstill Tuesday as workers stayed away from the mines, where 96 percent of all Lonmin's platinum production comes from. The stoppage spooked those investing in Lonmin, the world's third largest platinum producer. Lonmin's shares fell by 4.94 percent Tuesday at the London Stock Exchange.

Barnard O. Mokwena, an executive vice president for Lonmin, said the company continued to meet with the police regarding the violence. "Until we know why 3,000 people are under this influence to kill ... people, it's hard for us to believe this is a genuine complaint about the rights of workers," Mokwena said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Colombian lawmaker accused in betrayal plot freed

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Colombian prosecutors have freed a former regional lawmaker after ordering him jailed three months ago for allegedly helping leftist rebels plan the kidnapping of 11 colleagues who were later killed. Sigifredo Lopez had also been kidnapped by FARC rebels in the 2002 raid on the regional assembly in Cali. The case stupefied Colombians, as Lopez, now 49, spent seven year as a captive of rebels after the abduction. Chief Prosecutor Eduardo Montealegre told reporters Tuesday without offering details that evidence favorable to Lopez had emerged.

Rescued man: I spent 6 days in Austria crevasse

VIENNA (AP)—A German hiker rescued in the Austrian Alps on Tuesday claims he survived six days stuck inside a crevasse. Police say the 70-year-old man was pulled from a 20-meter (66-feet) hole in a glacier near the Laengentaler Weisskogel peak in the western state of Tyrol after other hikers heard him calling for help. The unidentified man was taken to hospital via helicopter while suffering from hypothermia and exhaustion. Police said it was unclear whether he had really spent almost a week in the crevasse but that he had indeed set out on his tour six days earlier.

Iran defense minister dismisses Israel threats

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's defense minister is dismissing Israeli threats against his country as psychological warfare. The semiofficial Mehr news agency on Tuesday quoted Gen. Ahmad Vahidi as saying Israeli leaders are resorting to "psychological war" against Iran. Israel has not ruled out a military strike against Iran's nuclear facilities. The West suspects Iran is aiming at producing nuclear weapons. Iran denies that. Gen. Vahidi warned that Israel is moving toward destruction of its "war machine" through its "warmongering" remarks.

Environment

INTERNSHIP TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

What better way to spend your summer

By ADELEYAH MOJICA
CORAL REEF INITIATIVE INTERN

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Pepperdine University student Adeleyah Mojica this summer served as an intern at the Division of Environmental Quality under Kaity Mattos.

In all my returns home, after being away for months at a time, I am still amazed at how truly beautiful our island is. To this day I still find myself mesmerized by the colors of the sunset, the different shades of blue in the ocean, and the sheer green that still exists here. That being said, it is no secret that the island's beauty is in danger of irreversible damage—many of our animals are already endangered or extinct, the colors of our corals have significantly paled, and the amount and sizes of our fish have notably decreased.

I took on this internship in hopes of having both a better understanding of what goes on behind the scenes in efforts towards solving the environmental issues as well as hopes of being a part of the improvement process.

I am currently pursuing a degree in Public Relations at Pepperdine University in southern California. Unfortunately, my school does not have a track for environmental studies, but I am hoping to someday be able get my foot in the door of an environmental agency through its PR side. In the meantime, I want to get as much experience with environmental work as I can.

This summer I was able to intern at our very own Division of Environmental Quality under the guidance of my mentor, Kaity Mattos, the watershed coordinator. I was able to see the work she does on a day-to-day basis as well as explore other fields at DEQ such as marine monitoring and geographic information system (GIS) mapping.

My main project for the internship was to organize the planning for the installation of a second public rain garden, the first presently located out in front of the CNMI Museum.

For those of you who have not heard of a rain garden, it is a small-scale Stormwater Best Management practice. It is basically a man-made garden designed to capture stormwater runoff in order to decrease the amount of water in the storm drain system and eventually the amount of contaminated water that is emptying into our oceans and harming our marine ecosystems.

All of the water that you see falling off roofs and flowing into the storm drain; that usually goes right into the ocean as it is, filled with sediments and chemicals that it may have picked up on its way down to the drain. This has direct negative effects on our ocean and its creatures and eventually on us as well. The public rain garden will stand as an educational tool so that others will hopefully implement this practice at their businesses and homes.

In order to carry out this project, a number of steps had to be taken. My mentor and I spoke with different agencies around the island. Research had to be done on the last rain garden as well as on what type of plants will be most suitable for our next rain garden. We had to pick a site and test its soils to be sure that it was an ideal location and we had to coordinate with those in charge of the lands. We have decided to go with the Northern Marianas College and luckily for us, they have been extremely cooperative.

A good part of the planning has already been complete but there is still work to do. I will be returning to school this week and unfortunately will not be able to see the rain garden's installation but I know that the project is in good hands thanks to folks at DEQ, MINA, and at the Northern Marianas College. Overall, the internship was a wonderful experience and I can honestly say that I loved my job and I would do it all over again.

I really enjoyed how the internship was not just an office job; we were able to go out into the ocean, into the boonies, and to places around the island that I had never seen before. I also enjoyed how the internship program offers other experiences outside of the office such as our weekly discussions, the maintenance of the re-vegetation project up at LaoLao, and the lagoon surveys in which we go out into the lagoon and record what type of species are currently living in that area.

I highly recommend this program. It is an awesome way to spend your summer and a great way to be a part of bettering the environmental conditions of our island.

My experience with GIS

By JULIUS REYES
CORAL REEF INITIATIVE INTERN

My name is Julius Reyes. I am 20 years old and a student at the Northern Marianas College. I am majoring in Natural Resources Management (NRM). This was my first time as an intern for the Coral Reef Initiative Internship. My mentor was Jose Quan the Geographic Information System analyst at Division Environmental Quality. As an intern under GIS I learned how to use the program to accomplish my projects. GIS is a computer program capable of capturing, storing, analyzing, and displaying geographically referenced information; that is, data identified according to location. GIS can be used to make maps as well as used to emphasize spatial relationships among objects being mapped.

For the internship I had two main projects, one was the Garapan Business Identification Project. Basically I had to go around the Garapan hotel district area collecting GPS data points using the TRIMBLE (a GPS device) to log the variety of business establishments within the hotel district of Garapan. The reason for this was to get a spatial idea of where the storm drains lie relative to the different types of businesses. We will be able to assign specific drains to a business when the Blue Starfish Storm Drain Tagging project progresses into the stage of encouraging business to implement Best Management Practices for storm water mitigation.

My second project was Watershed Management. I had to use raster images of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to create a Watershed Map. To create the map I created a model on GIS for stream generation instead of generating the map step by step. It ran the process like a program and was much easier and faster, with little or no mistakes.

Being a part of this internship has been a great learning experience for me. It allowed me to do hands on work in the field of Natural Resource Management, which is my major at NMC. I had a great time doing all the Lagoon Monitoring and LaoLao Revegetation activities. Also I learned a lot of things from our discussion groups we had every other Thursday and also from the mentors. Overall, I am grateful to have been a part of this internship.

From here, my plans are to finish up my program at NMC and receive my AA in NRM, next would be to further my education as far as a masters or even a PhD in the realm of Natural Resources Management.

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Bourne Legacy
Thursday 4:00 7:00
Cast: Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz
Spy film, Action • Rated PG13
Synopsis
The fourth installment of the highly successful Bourne series sees the return of the franchise's screenwriter, Tony Gilroy, this time stepping into the director's seat for an entry which sidelines main character Jason Bourne in order to focus on a fellow estranged assassin (Jeremy Renner). Edward Norton and Rachel Weisz co-star, with Joan Allen and Albert Finney reprising their roles from the previous films.
The Campaign
Thursday 4:30 7:30
Cast: Will Ferrell, Zach Galifianakis
Comedy • Rated R
Synopsis
Two powerful CEOs pit a blundering congressman against an unlikely political newcomer in order to seize control of a crucial North Carolina district in this satirical political comedy starring Will Ferrell and Zach Galifianakis. On the eve of an upcoming election, incumbent congressman Cam Brady (Ferrell) makes a misstep that threatens to end his career in politics. Recognizing the opportunity to gain influence in the aftermath of the public gaffe, a pair of scheming CEOs handpick credulous tourism-center director Marty Huggins (Galifianakis) as Brady's political rival, quickly shaping him into a viable candidate with the help of a seasoned campaign manager. As Election Day draws near, Brady and Huggins cast ethics aside to engage in the brand of hysterical mud-slinging that's sent contemporary politics straight down the toilet.
Total Recall
Thursday 4:25 7:25
Cast: Colin Farrell, Kate Beckinsale, Jessica Biel
Science, Fiction • Rated PG13
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days
Thursday 4:20 7:20
Cast: Zachary Gordon, Devon Bostick
Children's/family • Rated PG
The Dark Knight Rises
Thursday 4:05 7:10
Cast: Christian Bale, Michael Caine
Crime, Action • Rated PG13
Ice Age 4: Continental Drift
Thursday 4:15 7:15
Cast: Ray Romano, John Leguizamo
Children's/family • Rated PG
The Amazing Spider-Man
Thursday 4:10 7:05
Cast: Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone
Action, Fantasy, Drama • Rated PG13
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Life & Style

Children's education can't stop at the classroom door

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: Wouldn't it make sense if grade school teachers set aside time, weekly or monthly, to go over some very generic information that kids need to learn? I'm talking about things like how important it is to have pets neutered and why, how to manage money, and show them what the average dad earns and what it costs to run a household and support a family. It might help kids to grow up understanding that money isn't free and get them past the "gimmes."

There are so many topics that ought to be introduced to youngsters at an early age —how to groom themselves properly, be exposed to a variety of music genres, teach them how grandparents can use help even from small children. They could be taught to be aware of their surroundings, to realize that foul language isn't an attribute and why it's important to be pleasant.

There are so many topics. Ten minutes a week on different topics would suffice. Why not?

CHAPLIN, CONN., READER

DEAR READER: Why not? Because teachers are so overwhelmed trying to get their students to learn enough basic curriculum to pass the state mandated tests that they don't have time!

Reading your letter I couldn't help but wonder whose children you are describing. All of the topics you mentioned are things children should learn from their parents. Where are those parents? AWOL?

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have just started back into the dating scene after my divorce and being single for five years. I had a vasectomy when I was married, and I'm wondering at what point I should tell prospective dates this information.

SNIPPED IN ONTARIO, CANADA

DEAR SNIPPED: Raise the subject as soon as a woman mentions the idea of wanting children. It should certainly be discussed before you have sex.

P.S. Because vasectomies have been known to fail, and won't prevent someone from picking up an STD, you should always make sure you and your partner are protected by using a condom.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Several years ago we bought a used sofa at a garage sale. It is now falling apart. A friend of mine in the hotel business offered me an almost new sofa bed from a room that was being redecorated. It matches the colors in our game room perfectly. My wife said, "You can't bring hotel furniture into the house. Yuck!"

My logic is this: Why can't our kids sleep on a hotel bed in our house if our other houseguests are using the kids' rooms? We would use our clean sheets, and they sleep on the sofa beds in the hotels we stay in. My wife will sleep in a hotel bed that 100 percent of the guests sleep in, but she doesn't want a bug-free sofa bed that about 5 percent of hotel guests have used in our home for occasional use. Am I cheap, or am I married to a clean freak?

WHO'S BEEN SLEEPING IN MY BED?

DEAR WHO'S BEEN SLEEPING: Not knowing you better, I can't say whether or not you're cheap. But your wife should know that many people buy used hotel furniture, and selling it is big business. The sofa bed could be cleaned and sanitized and the mattress replaced. (Inquire about it at any furniture store that sells sofa beds.) But don't push your wife into taking it or the person who winds up sleeping on it could be you.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pattinson returns to spotlight on `The Daily Show'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Robert Pattinson has decided to come back—to the spotlight, that is.

The 26-year-old actor has been out of sight since learning last month that his girlfriend and "Twilight" co-star Kristen Stewart had an affair with a married movie director. A tabloid printed photos of the illicit dalliance, breaking the hearts of "Twilight" fans worldwide and prompting Stewart and the director to issue public apologies to their loved ones.

But Pattinson couldn't lay low forever - he has a film to promote. So on Monday, he was in New York for round of media appearances, including a chat with Jon Stewart on "The Daily Show" and the premiere of "Cosmopolis," a thriller based on a Don DeLillo novel.

On the red carpet, an upbeat Pattison wasn't asked directly about the cheating scandal—the media were limited on the number of questions they could ask—but he talked at one point about the movie's steamy sex scenes.

"I feel a little uncomfortable doing that. But I mean, some of the scenes in this were like complicated acting scenes, like during a sex scene which makes it—it's a very strange experience," he said with a smile.

Work obligations often force celebrities out of hiding after challenging personal situations, but choosing how and where to make a comeback is often a carefully calculated move.

"There's no one show that's the right answer for everyone," said veteran publicist Howard Bragman, now vice chairman of Reputation.com. "The right answer is the one where you think you're going to get the most respect, the fairest hearing and the best presentation—and potentially where you've had the best relationships in the past."

AP

This Monday, Aug. 13, 2012 photo released by Starpix shows actor Robert Pattinson attending the premiere of "Cosmopolis" at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

When Pattinson chatted with Stewart in 2010, the comedian invited him to return, saying, "You are making me cooler."

For his appearance Monday on "The Daily Show," Stewart joked in the show opener that many people might be tuning in for the first time.

A graphic went up on the bottom of the screen during a segment on Republican Mitt Romney's vice presidential pick, Paul Ryan, welcoming "Twilight Fans" and alerting them that they were watching a show "mostly dealing with politics and media."

When Pattinson did take the stage, Stewart asked, "What have you been up to?" and handed him ice cream. "We're just a couple o' gals talkin'... tell me everything."

Pattinson seemed uncomfortable but good-natured.

"My biggest problem in life is I'm cheap and I didn't hire a publicist," joked the actor about navigating this highly publicized time. (For the record, he really doesn't have a publicist.)

Stewart brought the conversation back to ice cream. "The last time I had a bad breakup, Ben & Jerry got me through some of the tougher times. So I thought you and I could talk about, `Boy, you are better off. Kick her to the curb. Whatever!'" he said as Pattinson laughed.

Pattinson will appear on "Good Morning America" on Wednesday and give an interview to MTV on Thursday.

Other celebrities eschew Hollywood's glare completely during times of crisis. Sylvester Stallone skipped some promotions for his latest film, "The Expendables 2," after his son's unexpected death last month. Stallone attended the film's Paris premiere last week. Demi Moore also avoided interviews about her directorial contributions to "Five" when rumors simmered about then-husband Ashton Kutcher's infidelity.

John Travolta hasn't given any probing interviews since his image was rocked by accusations of sexual impropriety with massage therapists, but the actor very publicly kissed wife Kelly Preston at the premiere of his latest film, "Savages," last month and has appeared at other Hollywood functions.

Bragman said, "The real secret is being prepared."

"Every actor has the right to talk about what he wants to talk about and not talk about something he doesn't want to talk about. ... You have to handle (such questions) with dignity and class and respect for the journalist doing their job," he said, adding, "Don't expect Robert on `The Daily Show' or `Good Morning America' to bare his soul."

Judge grants Sheryl Crow 3-year restraining order

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—A judge granted Sheryl Crow a three-year restraining order against a man who acknowledged he threatened to shoot the singer-songwriter and film executive Harvey Weinstein.

Philip Gordon Sparks, 45, agreed to stay away from the Grammy winner and Weinstein after an hour-long hearing in which he accused the pair of stealing $7.5 million from him, videotaping and following him without permission and leaving him homeless. A forensic psychiatrist who interviewed Sparks recently called him "imminently dangerous" and said his psychosis is directed intently at Crow.

Superior Court Judge James Hahn ordered Sparks to stay 300 yards away from Crow and Weinstein and make no attempt to contact them.

Hahn, the former Los Angeles mayor who was appointed as a judge in 2008, presided over the hour-long hearing, patiently instructing Sparks to ask questions and allow him to describe at length his reasons for feeling persecuted.

Crow obtained a temporary restraining order against the 45-year-old in July after her team reviewed a series of Sparks' online posts directed at the singer.

A worker at the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists wrote in a declaration accompanying Crow's filing that she spoke with Sparks on July 16 and he made the threat against Crow. He also threatened to shoot film executive Weinstein because he believed they were filming him and had stolen millions from him, the worker stated.

Crow, 50, has won nine Grammy Awards and has two sons, ages 5 and 2, who are also covered by the order.

AP

This April 18, 2012 file photo shows musician Sheryl Crow at the Entertainment Industry Foundation's "Unforgettable Evening" in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Sparks said he made the statement because he was frustrated because he believes they stole from him and continued to follow him.

"Mr. Sparks is unambiguously delusional," forensic psychiatrist Dr. David Glaser testified during the hearing.

Neither Crow nor Weinstein attended the hearing.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

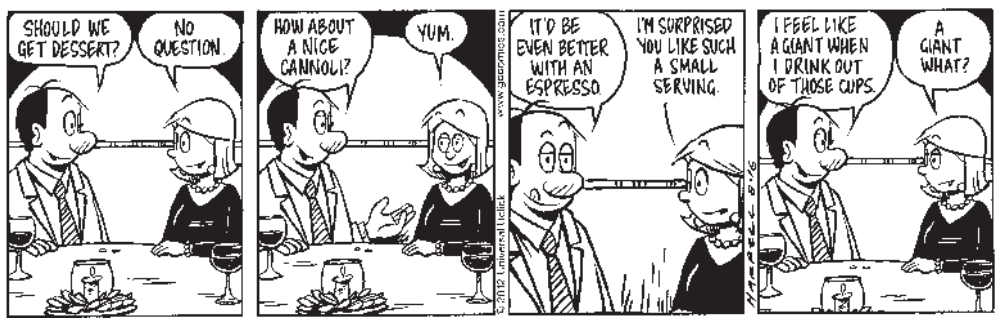
MAN, IT MUST BE 100 DEGREES TODAY!
ANIMALS SURE ARE DUMB TO HAVE ALL THAT FUR.
PEOPLE SURE ARE UGLY WITHOUT IT.
I'LL BET HE'S CRANKY BECAUSE HE'S SO HOT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

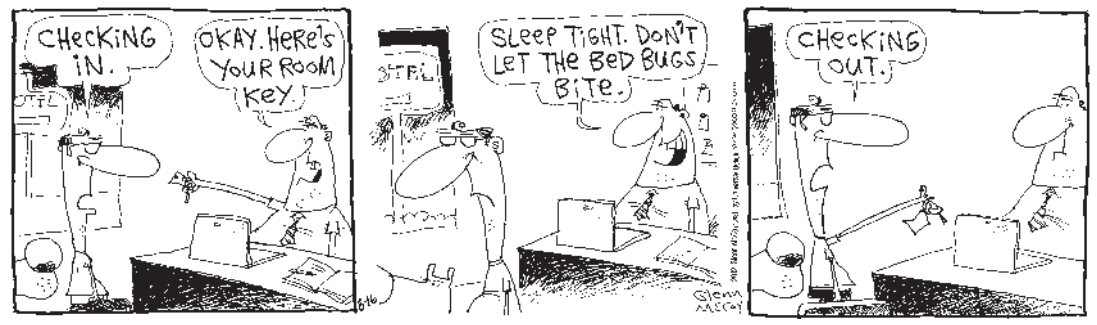
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SHOULD WE GET DESSERT?
NO QUESTION.
HOW ABOUT A NICE CANNOLI?
YUM.
IT'D BE EVEN BETTER WITH AN ESPRESSO
I'M SURPRISED YOU LIKE SUCH A SMALL SERVING.
I FEEL LIKE A GIANT WHEN I DRINK OUT OF THOSE CUPS.
A GIANT WHAT?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Information, informally
5 Genie's home
9 Commercials
12 "Once — a time ..."
13 Sheltered
14 Once around the track
15 Helen Reddy hit
17 Sch. org.
18 Charlie Brown's dog
19 Fire residue
21 Yours truly
22 Accordion rendition, often
24 Amorphous mass
27 Lingerie item
28 Concept
31 Edge
32 Decay
33 Have
34 Newspaper pg.
36 Fool
37 On in years
38 Euphoric
40 Hosp. staffer
41 Memorable mission
43 Oriental temple
47 Oft-tattooed word
48 "Chicago" Oscar winner
51 Eggs
52 History chapters
53 Hold sway
54 Barbie's companion
55 Adjoining
56 Largest of the seven

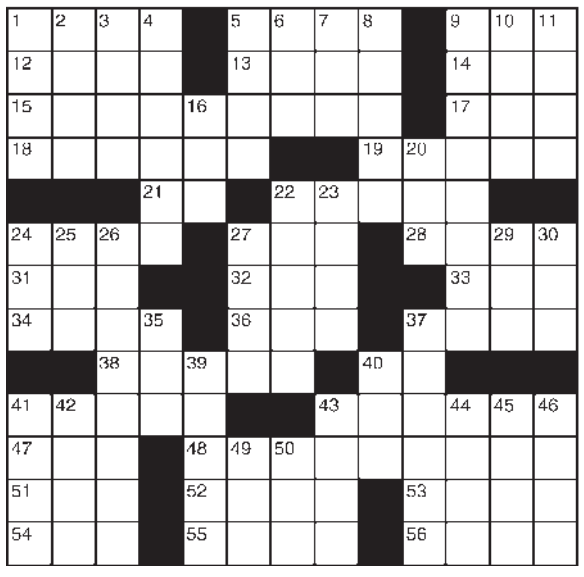
DOWN

1 Clothing
2 Admitting clients
3 Horseplay?
4 Bury
5 "My Fair —"
6 Carte lead-in
7 Kitten's comment
8 Punishment-related
9 Pack leader, maybe
10 Appointment
11 Resorts
16 Gorilla
20 Take to the slopes
22 Commonplace
23 Feedbag fill
24 Bud
25 Back talk
26 1971 Heston film, with "The"
27 Actor Pitt
29 Ram's mate
30 In addition
35 Poorly lit
37 Goat hair made into wool
39 Twelve
40 British rule in India
41 Uncontrolled
42 Lyricist's subject, often
43 History
44 Responsibility
45 Sandwich shop
46 On the briny
49 Before
50 Wage earner's payment

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	L	S	O	■	L	A	W	■	S	N	I	P
R	A	I	N	■	O	R	E	■	T	A	C	O
I	R	R	I	G	A	T	E	■	O	V	E	N
A	S	S	O	R	T	■	D	E	R	I	D	E
■	■	■	N	I	H	■	S	T	A	G	■	■
A	T	M	■	D	E	C	■	A	G	A	I	N
W	A	I	F	■	D	U	B	■	E	T	N	A
E	X	T	O	L	■	E	E	L	■	E	G	G
■	■	■	I	R	I	S	■	R	O	T	■	■
L	E	G	A	T	E	■	A	D	O	R	E	S
A	W	A	Y	■	L	I	T	I	G	A	T	E
M	E	T	E	■	M	O	E	■	A	G	U	E
B	R	E	D	■	A	N	D	■	S	A	I	D

Yesterday's answer 8-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cam Gigandet, 30; Steve Carell, 50; Angela Bassett, 54; Madonna, 54.

Happy Birthday: Question your past and make alterations to ensure that what you do in the future is beneficial and geared toward reaching your goals. Change is upon you, and fighting the inevitable is a losing battle. Point yourself in a positive direction and you will conquer any adversity you encounter along the way. Mind over matter. Your numbers are 6, 15, 23, 26, 31, 39, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Network, share your interests and expand your friendships and business relationships. Take care of your health and avoid making decisions based on incomplete evidence. Time is on your side, so relax and focus on what's best for you. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't make choices based on hearsay. It's important to find out firsthand what is expected and what you can do to keep the peace. Schedule a meeting with someone you feel has the experience or knowledge you require. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll learn a lot from a friend or relative if you discuss your options. Alternative choices can be implemented simply, if you are open to trying something new. A work relationship will grow if you inspire one another to be more creative. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't let the past hold you back. Take care of matters that will make you look bad if not addressed. A change of plan or direction will cause stress. Try to continue moving forward regardless of what someone else chooses to do. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Finish what you start or you will send out a negative signal. Emotions may surface, but if you let your feelings deter you from reaching your goals, you will lose confidence and the support of individuals you need on your team. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Deliver what you promise. It will be difficult to maintain a good reputation if you keep changing your mind. Your best efforts will develop by putting your experience and efficiency to work. Grant favors and win support. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Do your own thing and you'll attract positive attention. A change in your relationships can be expected. Learn from your past mistakes and rekindle friendships you miss. Love may hold you back if you are stuck in a stagnant relationship. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Being secretive will save you from loss. Focus your attention on personal changes that show your skills in an unusual way. Keeping up with the times while holding on to tradition and cultural beliefs will pay off. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Take care of important matters before you move on to pleasurable pastimes. A financial gain will result if you are conscientious and industrious. You are overdue for a personal change that will ease stress and improve your romantic life. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Keep a tight grip on your money. A partnership based on give-and-take can turn into a lifelong relationship. Don't be afraid to use unusual tactics to get your way. Catching someone off guard will help you gain control. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put greater faith in a partnership. You stand to gain personally and professionally if you are easy to get along with. You can gain much from expanding your interests and respecting others. Sign contracts and deal with pending settlements. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19- March 20*): Keep on top of the way you feel and how you affect others. Love is highlighted, and special plans will be well-received. A change at work may lead to uncertainty, but the outcome will benefit you in the end. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have great staying power. You are intelligent, quick-witted and persistent.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		1				6		
5			9		2			7
9			5		4			2
	8		7		6		9	
7			8		1			5
2			6		3			9
		7				3		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	2	7	9	4	3	6	1	5
4	6	3	1	2	5	9	8	7
9	1	5	8	7	6	4	3	2
7	8	1	3	5	4	2	9	6
3	5	6	2	9	8	1	7	4
2	4	9	6	1	7	8	5	3
1	3	8	5	6	2	7	4	9
5	7	2	4	8	9	3	6	1
6	9	4	7	3	1	5	2	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/16

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

COOKING MONKFISH **Solution: 7 letters**

M	R	T	L	B	P	D	L	E	B	S	N	A	E	B
O	O	E	E	I	R	O	I	B	B	A	K	E	D	S
I	A	N	V	C	O	O	A	U	E	R	C	C	S	E
S	S	D	K	I	U	F	T	C	S	C	O	O	A	A
T	T	E	E	F	L	A	O	H	H	A	U	I	N	R
U	E	R	B	L	I	E	S	O	H	P	U	G	L	E
R	D	E	A	O	D	S	W	P	S	D	L	I	M	D
E	E	T	B	U	A	D	H	A	E	E	T	S	A	T
Y	N	T	S	R	E	E	E	Q	R	E	M	M	I	S
R	S	U	T	R	H	L	A	U	F	O	M	S	B	W
F	E	B	E	E	E	L	L	E	U	E	E	M	R	E
P	T	L	A	S	R	I	T	T	A	A	U	A	E	E
E	I	T	M	T	B	R	H	T	S	R	P	E	A	T
E	Ⓗ	Ⓒ	Ⓘ	Ⓡ	S	G	Y	O	C	E	N	O	D	E
D	W	S	O	F	T	E	N	A	E	L	L	E	W	D

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Angler, Bacon, Baked, Beans, Bread, Broil, Broth, Butter, Chowder, Crumbs, Cube, Deep Fryer, Dense, Done, Flour, Foil, Fresh, Grilled, Head, Healthy, Heat, Herbs, Kebabs, Lean, Liver, Meaty, Mild, Moisture, Monkfish, Mouth, Ocean, Opaque, Poach, Rack, Rich, Roasted, Salt, Sauce, Seafood, Seared, Season, Simmer, Soften, Soups, Steam, Sweet, Tail, Taste, Tender, Well, White, Wrap

Yesterday's Answer: Kansas City

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 or 36 ... $8.95 each ... $3 for each additional book. Send to: WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at ...Contains 48 puzzles, 8 clever bonus challenges and 32 ...

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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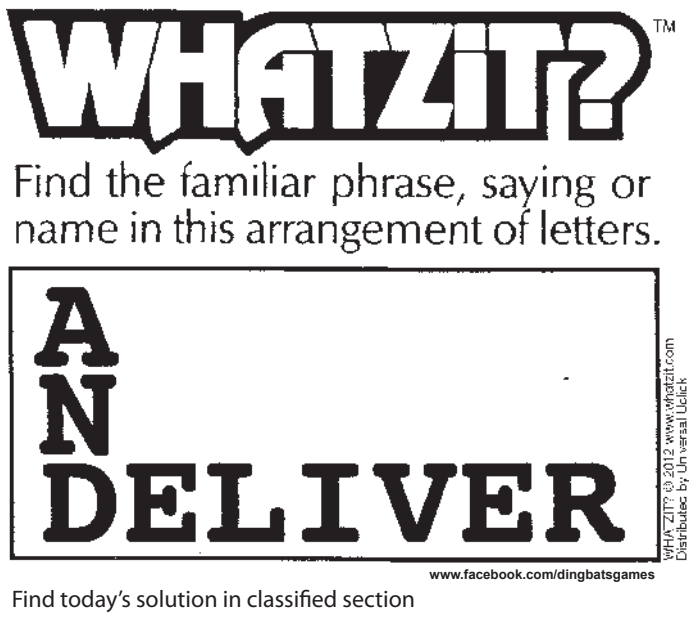
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



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DBA GUMA TAGA CAFE

Email resume to: lawyers_services@yahoo.com

Prospective Applications must provide resume and be available for an online video conference interview. This position is an immediate opening.

Title Opening: Cafe Manager

Duties: Overall operation and management of snack bar:

Snack bar manager is responsible for the operations of the snack bar consistent with opening and closing procedures, sales deposit to bank, monthly BGRT/EWT preparation, and all related duties.

Skills/Qualifications: 3 years experience, Customer focus, Tracking Budget Expenses, Pricing, Vendor Relationships, Market knowledge, Staffing, Results Driven, Strategic Planning, Management Proficiency, Client Relationships, Great Verbal Communications skills

Salary: $1,000.00 monthly salary.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-MOT-079

BID SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 28, 2012 • TIME: 1:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF A BOOM-ARM TRACTOR MOWER FOR TINIAN, CNMI"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR AT THE TINIAN MAYOR'S OFFICE.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAMON M. DELA CRUZ
MAYOR OF TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-LB-095

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: AUGUST 28, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FORTY (40) LAPTOPS FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE"

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ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY CONTACT MR. PATRICK SEMAN AT (670) 664-8954.

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THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ MELCHOR MENDIOLA
DIRECTOR, LEGISLATIVE BUREAU

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 12-029

Opening Date: Wednesday, August 8, 2012
Closing Date: Wednesday, August 22, 2012

Administrative Support Technician

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Purchasing Officer or his/her designee. Drafts a variety of documents such as memorandums, correspondence, reports, and schedules. Performs routine clerical support duties to include: preparing certifications; maintaining databases; performing data entry; filing; faxing; copying; routing documents and information; separating and sorting documents; uploading and downloading routes; restocking supplies; scheduling appointments; and, typing. Explains CUC and departmental policies and procedures. Coordinates supervisor's schedule and screens/ responds to supervisor's routine messages. Collects, receives, processes, sorts, and distributes a variety of correspondence, documents, deliveries, and mail. Responds to requests for information and provides assistance with completing departmental paperwork; resolves customer complaints. Compiles, reviews and processes timecards. Attends and takes minutes at meetings; gathers and organizes information to be discussed on the agenda. Makes and coordinates travel arrangements. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION: CUC Purchasing Office; Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $19,425.00 to $25,231.00 per annum; un-classified, un-graded.
POSITION: One (1).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult School Diploma (through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program). Associates Degree in related field is preferred. Four (4) years of proven work experience in purchasing or procurement and supply. Proven experience in Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel, in Microsoft Office 2007 or later is preferred. Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Phone etiquette; Modern office procedures, methods, and equipment; Basic filing and record keeping principles. Skill in: Providing customer service; Preparing reports; Prioritizing work; Providing customer service; Alphabetizing and filing; Keyboarding; Using modern office equipment; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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WHATZIT Solution: Stand and deliver

EMPLOYMENT

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Billingsley stars as Dodgers crush Pirates

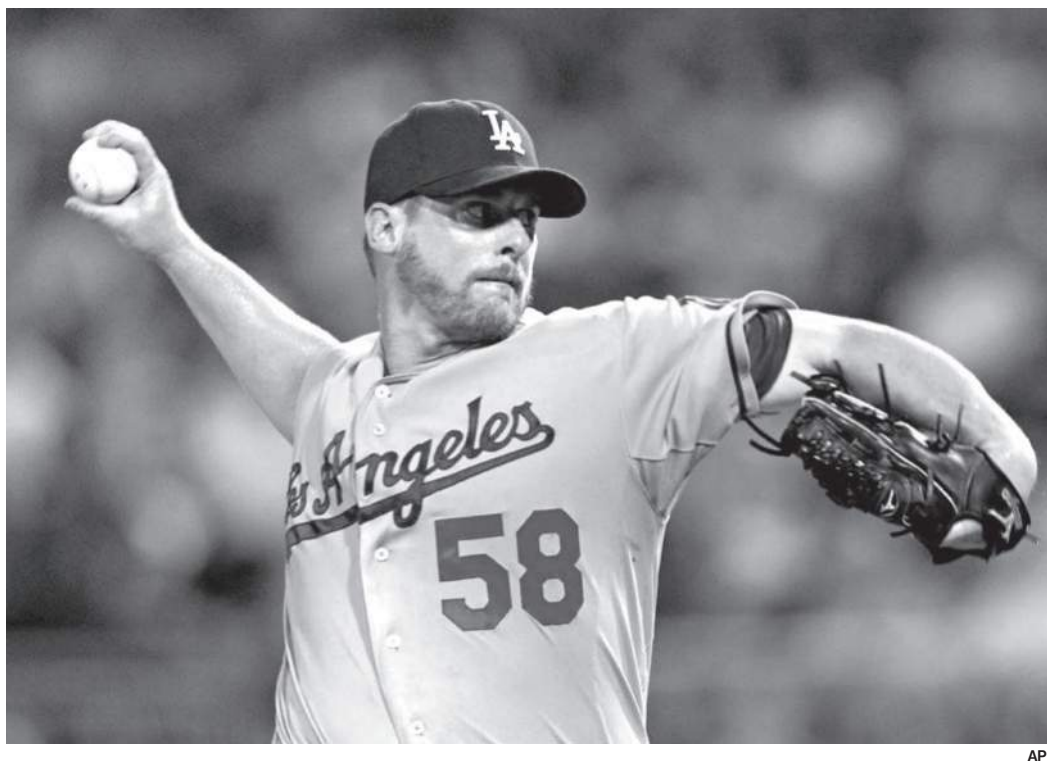
PITTSBURGH (AP)—Los Angeles' Chad Billingsley pitched eight scoreless innings as the Dodgers matched their highest-scoring game of the season, routing the Pittsburgh Pirates 11-0 in the National League on Tuesday.

Billingsley (9-9) won his fifth consecutive start, allowing no runs and one walk. He improved to 7-1 in his career against the Pirates.

The Dodgers have won five of six, pushing them to the top of the NL West. Pittsburgh has lost five of six.

Luis Cruz tied career highs for hits and RBIs with three each as Los Angeles beat the Pirates for the eighth straight time, dating to last season.

Pittsburgh's Kevin Correia (9-7) took the loss. Going in, he had won seven straight decisions, tied for the longest active streak in the majors.



AP

Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Chad Billingsley throws to a Pittsburgh Pirates batter in the sixth inning of the baseball game Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2012, in Pittsburgh. The Dodgers won, 11-0.

Reds 3, Mets 0

In Cincinnati, Jay Bruce hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning, and Cincinnati on its fourth game in a row, beating New York.

The NL Central leaders and the Mets were a combined 0 for 18 with runners in scoring position before Bruce connected.

Brandon Phillips drew a leadoff walk in the ninth from Manny Acosta (1-3). Ryan Ludwick followed with single that sent Phillips to second, setting up Bruce's winning shot.

Reds reliever Jose Arredondo (5-2) wound up with the win. In all, the clubs stranded a total of 24 runners on base.

Cardinals 8, Diamondbacks 2

In St. Louis, rookie Joe Kelly pitched into the seventh inning of what could be his final start for some time, guiding St. Louis to victory over Arizona.

Kelly (3-5) gave up two runs in 6 1-3 innings and matched his career best with six strikeouts, lowering his ERA to 3.41 — trailing only Kyle Lohse's 2.72 in the rotation. However Jaime Garcia is soon due back from injury, ending Kelly's run as a starter.

St. Louis got home runs from Matt Holliday and Jon Jay.

Diamondbacks starter Ian Kennedy (10-10) made throwing errors on consecutive plays to help the Cardinals score two unearned runs in the seventh for a three-run cushion, and gave up both homers.

Braves 6, Padres 0

In Atlanta, Tim Hudson combined with three relievers to shut out San Diego, steering Atlanta to victory.

Hudson (12-4) allowed no runs and one walk in 6 2-3 innings and won his sixth straight decision.

Martin Prado had a three-run homer for the Braves, who began the day 5_ games behind first-place Washington in the NL East, their biggest deficit since trailing by 6 games on July 5.

San Diego starter Clayton Richard (9-12) left the game trailing 3-0 in the seventh, He gave up five runs in 6 1-3 innings.

Phillies 1, Marlins 0

In Miami, Kyle Kendrick pitched seven scoreless innings, steering Philadelphia to a tight win over Miami.

Kendrick (5-9) struck out six and threw 61 of 87 pitches for strikes. He has won seven straight against the Marlins, dating to September 2008.

The sole run of the game came from Jimmy Rollins homer leading off the first.

Charlie Manuel earned his 700th win as a manager with the Phillies' second straight shutout. The Marlins haven't scored in 27 innings.

Rockies 8, Brewers 6

In Denver, Carlos Gonzalez had four hits in Colorado's win over Milwaukee.

Colorado starter Tyler Chatwood (3-2) allowed one earned in six innings.

The Rockies finished with 15 hits for the second straight game. On Monday, they jumped in front early and they repeated the formula against Randy Wolf (3-9).

Astros 10, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Brett Wallace and Fernando Martinez each hit three-run homers as Houston cruised past Chicago.

Houston had 15 hits in winning only its third road game in 28 tries.

Astros starter Lucas Harrell (10-8) struck out six over eight innings. He has allowed two runs or fewer in all seven of his starts since the All-Star break.

Cubs starter Chris Volstad (0-9) lasted just five innings, allowing four runs as he again came up well short in his bid to end a personal winless streak that's lasted 13 months.

Giants 6, Nationals 1

In San Francisco, Madison Bumgarner pitched a five-hitter and Brandon Belt had three hits and three RBIs, leading the San Francisco Giants to a 6-1 win over the Washington Nationals in a matchup between NL division leaders.

Bumgarner (13-7) struck out six and walked one in his second complete game this season.

Hunter Pence and Marco Scutaro, both acquired before the July trade deadline, each added three hits for the Giants, who have won three of four at home after losing eight of nine

Yankees 3, Rangers 0

In New York, Hiroki Kuroda pitched a shutout as the Yankees beat the Texas Rangers 3-0 in the meeting of American League divisional leaders.

(11-8) pitched a two-hitter and the New York Yankees got consecutive homers from Nick Swisher and Mark Teixeira in a victory over the Rangers.

Kuroda (11-8) held Texas hitless until an infield single leading off the seventh. He walked only two and struck out five in his second shutout of the season and fourth of his career.

Orioles 7, Red Sox 1

In Baltimore, Mark Reynolds homered twice and drove in four runs to power Baltimore past Boston.

Reynolds hit a solo shot in the fifth and a three-run drive in the sixth, while Omar Quintanilla also went deep for the Orioles, who moved 10 games over .500 for the first time since June.

Baltimore starter Wei-Yin Chen (11-7) gave up one run and one walk in six-plus innings.

White Sox 3, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Jose Quintana snapped a five-start winless streak to steer Chicago to a rare win at Toronto.

Quintana (5-2) allowed two runs in 6 2-3 innings, helping the White Sox win at Rogers Centre for only the fourth time in six years.

Blue Jays starter Henderson Alvarez (7-10) allowed two earned runs in seven innings.

Tigers 8, Twins 4

In Minneapolis, Miguel Cabrera became the first player to reach 100 RBIs this season with a run-scoring single as Detroit downed Minnesota.

With the game locked 4-4 in the sixth inning, Andy Dirks hit a solo home run off Brian Duensing (2-8) to put the Tigers ahead for good. Cabrera got his 100th RBI in the seventh, becoming the third player in Tigers history to collect at least 100 RBIs in five or more consecutive seasons.

Royals 5, Athletics 0

In Kansas City, Jeremy Guthrie allowed only three singles in seven innings as Kansas City rolled to a win over Oakland.

Guthrie (5-12), who struck out a season-high eight, ran his scoreless streak to 15 innings. He has struck out 14 over his past two starts.

The A's failed to get a runner past second base and were shut out for a major league-high 14th time.

Angels 9, Indians 6

In Anaheim, Zack Greinke won for the first time in four starts since being acquired by the Angels, Albert Pujols homered and drove in four runs and Los Angeles beat the Cleveland Indians, 9-6.

Greinke (1-1) allowed four runs and eight hits in seven innings, struck out five and walked one. The 2009 AL Cy Young winner, who came to Los Angeles in a deal with Milwaukee on July 27 for three prospects, gave up 12 runs in 19 innings over his first three starts for the Angels.

Mariners 3, Rays 2

In Seattle, Eric Thames' two-out single in the bottom of the ninth inning gave the Seattle Mariners a 3-2 victory and snapped the Tampa Bay Rays' seven-game winning streak.

Kyle Seager started the winning rally with a single to right field off Tampa Bay closer Fernando Rodney, and pinch-hitter Chone Figgins pushed a bunt that first baseman Carlos Pena fielded. Pena glanced at second, pivoted, double-clutched, and then threw wide of first base.

With more teams in race, MLB attendance up again

NEW YORK (AP)—The extra playoff spot in Major League Baseball this season has thickened the races, with several teams well within October's reach despite taking mediocre records into the stretch run.

That's having an impact in the seats—as has some good weather, signs of life in the economy and other factors. MLB-wide attendance is up again, about 4 percent from 2011.

"There are more teams that have a shot, so it's given teams a lot of hope," said Lou DePaoli, chief marketing officer for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

MLB's eight best season attendance totals have all come in the last eight years, and this one is on pace to keep that run going.

The major league average of 31,516 through Monday was up 4.3 percent from 2011's final average of 30,229, according to STATS LLC, but remains below the pre-recession highs of 32,785 in 2007 and 32,528 the following year. The average usually declines in September, after schools are back in session.

The defending World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals have been selling an average of 3,383 more tickets per game from last year, even after losing megastar Albert Pujols. They're on track to hit the 3 million mark for the 14th time in the last 15 seasons. Though the Royals are sputtering, having the All-Star game in Kansas City sparked sales a bit. They're up 3,204 per game.

"I think that shows how the economy is rebounding," said Mike Swanson, vice president of communications and broadcasting. He also pointed to the team's young core of Billy Butler, Alex Gordon and Mike Moustakas that's helped create interest.

The National League-leading Cincinnati Reds got a preseason bump from new contracts for stars Joey Votto, Brandon Phillips and Sean Marshall and the trade for Mat Latos, and they're up 1,296 per game. Their average of 29,192 tickets sold per game is on pace to beat the Great American Ball Park record from the stadium's opening in 2003.

The Detroit Tigers shelled out for prize free agent Prince Fielder and are filling 7,328 more seats per game than last year.

The Boston Red Sox have a sellout streak at Fenway Park that started on May 15, 2003, despite another disappointing season on the field—though sellout numbers can be deceiving to the eye at the ballpark because what counts are tickets sold, not people through the turnstiles.

After setting a franchise attendance record last season, the two-time defending American League champion Texas Rangers have topped themselves again by averaging 43,607 per game, an increase of 6,848, more than 18 percent.

Several long-struggling clubs have enjoyed a renaissance, too. The Washington Nationals have been drawing 6,728 more than last year's pace. The Baltimore Orioles are up, too, by 3,780.

The Pirates are selling 1,483 more tickets per game, announcing their 13th sellout crowd on Saturday. The team record of 19 when PNC Park opened in 2001 is in sight, as is their first postseason appearance in 20 years.

"When I started to have to wait to get food in the fifth inning of a weekday game, I knew things were changing," said fan Dave Jenkins, who saw the Pirates lose 5-4 to the Dodgers on Monday night.

Pittsburgh's strong start in 2011—even with a late fade—helped them move more season tickets for 2012, and their success this spring was captivating enough to keep the customers coming.

"I think people were kind of just waiting to see if they were for real. It's been a long time, you know," said Natalie Johnson, another fan at the park on Monday. "I don't know if it's the wild card or anything, at least not here. I think people just like that the Pirates are good again."

Some of the MLB-wide jump doesn't pertain to winning, though. A new ballpark opened in Miami, where despite an underperforming team the Marlins are selling 10,614 more tickets per game this year than last season in cavernous, football-centric Sun Life Stadium.

Pennington: Jets can succeed with Tebow, wildcat

Quarterback Tim Tebow calls a play in the huddle during practice at New York Jets training camp in Cortland, N.Y., Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2012. AP

CORTLAND, N.Y. (AP)—Chad Pennington thinks the New York Jets, Tim Tebow and the wildcat are a perfect fit.

The former NFL quarterback would certainly know. He was part of the tricky offensive scheme in Miami, when he played with the Dolphins under current Jets offensive coordinator Tony Sparano.

''If the wildcat allows you to win and be more successful,'' Pennington said Tuesday, ''you should be all for it as a player.''

Pennington spent his first eight NFL seasons with the Jets before being released in 2008 when New York acquired Brett Favre. The former first-round pick signed with Miami and was there when Sparano dusted off the wildcat offense and took the NFL by storm.

For Pennington, that was a big change after working in a conventional offense his whole career—just as current starting quarterback Mark Sanchez has.

''If you are totally focused on winning,'' Pennington said, ''there is no adjusting.''

While some fans and media think the wildcat may have become ineffective as defenses have caught up to it, Jets coach Rex Ryan insists it's still difficult to prepare for. Ryan said adding an athletic quarterback such as Tebow makes it even tougher, something Pennington completely agrees with.

''Well, obviously Tim adds another threat with the ability to do zone-read concepts as well as being able to throw the football, and that changes the defense's perspective,'' Pennington said.

Pennington, who said he is now officially retired from playing after taking his last NFL snap in 2010 following several shoulder operations throughout his career, worked with Jets starting quarterback Mark Sanchez in the offseason to help him learn Sparano's offense.

''From what I've seen from afar, and now being here, Mark is throwing the ball better than I've ever seen him throw,'' said Pennington, who added that he's ''invested'' in Sanchez after spending so much time with him. ''I think he's doing an outstanding job. I think he's definitely gotten better in the offseason, and made a point to take it to the next level. Kudos to him for doing that because that's a decision you have to make as a pro to listen to the criticism and do something about it. He's certainly done that.''

Pennington spoke to Sanchez after the Jets (No. 17 in the AP Pro32) traded for Tebow in March and tried to lighten the mood a bit.

''I told him: 'Guess what? Look on the bright side. You don't have to do as many interviews,''' a smiling Pennington said.

While a major story line during training camp has been whether Sanchez and Tebow will be able to co-exist, Pennington has no doubts that the two quarterbacks will be able to do so. He also doesn't think Sanchez will have his rhythm affected—something wide receiver Santonio Holmes suggested could be the downfall of a two-quarterback system.

''I think that's selfish,'' Pennington said. ''If you think as a quarterback this game is solely about you, I think you're sadly mistaken. This is the greatest team game ever invented. For a quarterback to gripe about whether he's getting in rhythm or not ... grab the football and make a play.

''That's what it's about.'

Rogers has blood clot, Parker, Austin back issues

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—The interior of the New York Giants' defensive line is facing questions after veteran Shaun Rogers was lost for the season with a blood clot in his left calf and two other defensive tackles were diagnosed with back problems, including one that will require season-ending surgery.

Coach Tom Coughlin announced Tuesday that Rogers' treatment for the blood clot would prevent him from playing for the Super Bowl champions this season. His calf swelled after the Giants' preseason opener against Jacksonville, but fellow tackle Linval Joseph said Rogers also was leg whipped in practice last week.

Marvin Austin, the team's No. 2 draft pick in 2011, also was being seen by doctors in New York after his back acted up Monday night, a problem some players blamed on bad mattresses at training camp at the University at Albany.

Coughlin added free agent Marvin Parker needs surgery to repair a herniated disc that he injured the game Friday.

''I thought we were as deep (at defensive tackle) as we were at any position on the team,'' Coughlin said, ''and it's not that way right now.''

The Giants would get a boost if veteran starter Chris Canty returns. He had offseason knee surgery, though, and his rehabilitation has taken longer than expected.

Joseph, who started at tackle last season with Canty, is back, and so is veteran Rocky Bernard, who missed a couple of workouts last week with a sore knee.

First-year pro Dwayne Hendricks, who played one game last season and spent parts of three years on New York's practice squad, played well Friday, recording two sacks. Seventh-round draft pick Markus Kuhn is raw, but he is strong and has shown flashes.

Coughlin was more concerned Tuesday about Rogers, who was signed as a free agent. He lost 50 pounds before reporting to camp and he was expected to add size to the middle of the line for the Giants (No. 3 in the AP Pro32).

''It's just a shame. I hate to see (it),'' Coughlin said. ''Obviously, it's your health first, and there isn't any question about that. The only way, I guess, they can control these things are with these drugs, these blood-thinning drugs. Once you do that, obviously you're done. I mean, you can't take a chance on some kind of bleeding that is undetected.

''So, it's just a sad thing.''

Rogers, who was examined by team orthopedic surgeon Russell Warren and vascular surgeon John Karwowaki at the Hospital for Special Surgery on Monday, was not immediately available for comment.

Canty said that his knee is improving, but he could not put a timetable on his return.

''We knew this was gonna be a long process. Obviously, I didn't think it would be this long, but I think we're being smart about it, we're taking the right approach,'' Canty said. ''It's important for me to do everything I can mentally and physically to make sure when I do get the clearance to step out on that field I'm ready to go.''

While he would like to be on the field for the season opener against his former Dallas teammates, Canty would not guarantee it. He added he would not need a lot of time to get ready after seven years in the league.

Golfers push for the playoffs

KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C. (AP)—Gary Woodland, Y.E. Yang and Chez Reavie all made it to the Tour Championship for a chance to compete for the $10 million bonus prize in the FedEx Cup finale.

One year later, the goal is simply to get to the first playoff event.

All three are outside the top 125 in the FedEx Cup standings going into the Wyndham Championship in Greensboro, N.C.

At least they have a chance.

Stewart Cink, three years removed from his British Open title at Turnberry, is at No. 137 and chose not to play. Cink, whose oldest son is going to college, will not be eligible to play again until October. Also outside the top 125 and not playing is two-time U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen.

The top 125 qualify for The Barclays at Bethpage Black. After that, the top 100 in the standings move on to the Deutsche Bank Championship, the top 70 to the BMW Championship at Crooked Stick and the top 30 go to the Tour Championship.

Rod Pampling is on the bubble at No. 125, 26 points ahead of Brendan Steele.

Perhaps the biggest surprise is John Daly, who tied for 18th at the PGA Championship. Daly hasn't had his full PGA Tour card the past six years and he hasn't gone back to Q-school. The PGA Championship was his fourth top-20 finish in his past seven tournaments, and he has missed only one cut.

Just like that, he is at No. 137 in the FedEx Cup standings, 58 points away from the No. 125 spot going into Greensboro.

"It's baby steps for me," Daly said. "I'm slowly but surely getting more and more confidence because I'm making a lot of cuts. Whether you play great on a weekend or bad, at least you're playing competitive. That's what I need, whether it's 15 weeks in a row, 20 weeks in a row. I've always been a guy that likes to play a lot, anyway. So I just feel like I've got a great rhythm."

One of the complaints about the PGA Tour doing away with Q-school as a way to earn a tour card is that it forces the college star to spend a year on the Web.com Tour instead of going straight to the tour. Dustin Johnson and J.B. Holmes are among those who went from college to Q-school to winning in their first year.

Ben Kohles has proved that it's still possible.

He finished up at the University of Virginia in the spring, turned pro and won back-to-back on the Web.com Tour. Kohles is No. 2 on the money list, assured of finishing in the top 25 to get onto the PGA Tour. If the new system were in place next year, he still would be guaranteed one of the spots after the "Finals," the three tournaments that blend Web.com Tour and PGA Tour players to decide who gets cards.

But it could hurt participation in the U.S. Amateur every August and the Walker Cup every other year. Kohles said his original plan was to play the U.S. Amateur, being held his week at Cherry Hills, before turning pro. However, he was offered a spot in Columbus, Ohio, won the tournament and was on his way.

"It's kind of been a whirlwind and haven't had much time to think about it, which I think is a good thing," Kohles said Tuesday. "I know a lot of guys, tons of golfers, are trying to make it out here. I was able to ... take a lot of the variables out of play and make a very big jump very early. I was very fortunate and really blessed."

Keegan Bradley had a perfect record in the majors when he won the PGA Championship last year because it was his first time playing a major. He's now won 20 percent of his majors, though he kept another mark perfect. He still doesn't know what it's like to leave a major early.

Bradley was among 12 players who made the cut in every major this year.

The others were Jason Dufner, Jim Furyk, Padraig Harrington, Fredrik Jacobson, Zach Johnson, Graeme McDowell, Francesco Molinari, Ian Poulter, Adam Scott, Tiger Woods and Steve Stricker, who hasn't missed a cut in a major since the 2009 PGA Championship at Hazeltine.

Graeme McDowell and Adam Scott had the best overall performance in the majors, both finishing in the top 15 in all of them.

On the flip side were Lucas Glover, Mark Wilson and Alvaro Quiros, who failed to make the cut in all four majors. Quiros has missed the cut in each of his past six majors, during which time he is 65-over par.

Two-way tie for lead in SEDA B Flame Tree division

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jonny's Bar & Grill's Kyodai gained a share of the lead with Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Lilapuching in the B Flame Tree division after last week games in the 2012 Saipan Dart Association Summer/Fall Bud Light Dart League.

Lilapuching had to make room for Kyodai, which matched the former's 23-7 record after a 13-2 home rout over Sand's Juvy Refalaun's (10-20). Lilapuching was forced to share the top spot with Kyodai after settling for an 11-4 victory over Bammy's ToK'Ka Hao (11-19).

A pair of upsets left Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Team Exotic, VFW's Duty Gunz, and Joe's Steakhouse's Real Deal all locked up in the fight for third place with their similar 14-16 slate.

Joe's Dart K'nhytes (11-19) stunned the Dutty Gunz, 8-7, at home, while Team Exotic surprised the Real Deal, 9-6, also in a home tiff.

A 52 high-in by Kyodai's Tony Tomokane remains the lone division notable.

In other standings, SOS Bar & Grill's Fantastic Baby!, Bammy's Zyndikato, and VFW Post 3457's Naughty Boyz lead their respective groups.

Fantastic Baby!'s grip on the Master division lead loosened a little last week, however it still managed to work out a 9-8 road win over Es'y Diamond Force (17-17) to improve to a 22-12 card.

The Jokers (21-10) moved up to second spot after an impressive 17-0 win over Sand's Bar's Juvy Especialist (3-31). Next up is Oceanside's Destroyers (20-14), who suffered an 6-11 upset on the road at the hands of Joe's Dart Seekers (19-15).

VFW's Maharot Crew (19-15) is tied in fourth place with Joe's after taking care of SOS' Mixedblood Rookies (15-19), 10-7, on home turf.

Notables included a 140 high-in by Rookies' Angelo Hernaez and a 128 high-out by Maharot's Wilson Quiban.

Bammy's Zyndicato shot into first place in the C division after a strong 11-4 road win over SOS' Joker Royal (9-21).

Two games behind in second place rests Sand's Lupeyt (19-11), which bested Jonny's Sparks (13-17), 9-6, also on the road, while Naked Fish's Hafa Mas (18-12) secured third chair with a 10-5 road draw over sister-team Island Apparel-OH! MG (14-16).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Naked Fish Bar & Grill's IT&E Na'Gupu players, pictured in this recent file photo, moved into second place in SEDA' s B Fanihi division after an 11-4 road victory over Es'y Kitchen's Taya Guaha last week.

VFW's Warriors (17-13) moved into fourth place with a 10-5 rebound over Oceanside host M-Side (10-20), while Oceanside's Shottas (16-14) is positioned in fifth after an 8-7 win over host Sand's Juvy Aschoascho (13-17).

Notables included a 120 high-in by Hafa Mas' Scott Guerrero and a 110 high-out by Lupeyt's Gil Gapor.

The Naughty Boyz dined in over Es'y's Kitchen Darters and won, 9-6, to hold a one-game lead in the B Fanihi field. The frontrunner holds a 20-10 card.

Naked Fish's IT&E Na'Gupu (19-11) came away with second place after a solid 11-4 road victory over Es'y's Taya Guaha (12-18). Joe's One Shot (18-12) is at third after beating Bammy's DJ Fish (16-14), while Oceanside's Shooters (12-18) upset Jonny's Rehab (14-16) at home, 8-7.

Notables include a 160 high-Iin by Naughty Boyz's John Cabrera and a 121 high-out by Oneshot's Scott Guerrero.

2013 Mazda 3 at stake in Docomo Pacific Golf Classic

Triple J Motors is giving away a brand new car in next month's 3rd Annual Docomo Pacific Golf Classic

A 2013 Mazda 3 will be up for grabs as a hole-in-one prize for the fundraising tournament that will be held at the Kingfisher Golf Links on Sept. 1.

Other hole-in-one prizes sponsors in the Docomo tournament are Joeten Motors and Bank of Hawaii, while proceeds from the annual competition will go to Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC).

The event's major sponsors also include DFS Saipan Ltd, First Hawaiian Bank, Mobil, and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, while Fiesta Resort, Delta Air Lines, the Marianas Visitors Authority, Pacific Islands Club, Dickerson & Quinn, Kautz Glass, and DataDot Micronesia are also supporting next month's fundraiser.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Docomo Pacific retail operations manager Pauline Johnson, Triple J senior vice president Jay Jones, Triple J sales manager Ben Lizama, Docomo Pacific general manager James Nelson, and Triple J marketing manager Jay Santos pose with the 2013 Mazda 3 at stake as hole-in-one prize in next month's 3rd Annual Docomo Pacific Golf Classic.

This year's entry fee has been lowered to $85 and Docomo Pacific subscribers can enter for only $75. Entry forms are available at the Docomo Pacific store on Middle Road in Gualo Rai. Entry fees are accepted at Docomo Pacific. Deadline for submission of entry forms is set for Aug. 30. The weekend event will tee off at 7:30 am.

For more information, contact James Nelson at (670)483-4924 or email jnelson@docomopacific.com. ***(PR)***

ACKERMAN

From Page 24

(2-1) were battling for the remaining semis seat in Pool A yesterday. A Coffin win over Ackerman yesterday would have created a three-way tie for the lead with Ripley joining the group and the deadlock will be resolved by the sets won/loss percentage. Ackerman has the edge over her two foes, having dropped only one set in the first two days of competition.

Ackerman's teammates, Lee and Isabes Heras, would have to settle for the No. 5 to 8 place in the 10-player field. Lee was 0-3 and was looking to break into the win column yesterday, as she was scheduled to face Palau's Sunshein Palik (0-3)

Heras is in Pool B and held a 1-2 record after last Tuesday's games, posting her lone win against the Solomon Islands' Vinda Teally, 6-2, 6-4. She split her games in Day 2, as she lost to New Caledonia's Olanza Matuu in the afternoon match, 4-6, 2-6. Heras also dropped her lone game in the opening day, bowing to the top-seeded Anastasia Tapusoa of Samoa, 0-6, 0-1, and was set to play her last game yesterday against Palau's Ayana Rengiil.

Meanwhile, Luther Lizama and Chris Cajigan were also participating in the Oceania Plate, which has a mixed of U12, U15, and U18 players competing in Juniors and Seniors divisions.

In the Junior Boys, Lizama missed the semis, as he has won only one game in three matches in Pool B. The Commonwealth bet, who surprisingly defeated the top-tanked Carlos Ah Ching of American Samoa, 6-3, 6-3, was scheduled to duel Vanuatu's Ben Pechan in his Pool B assignment yesterday.

Cajigan is in Pool A in the Senior Boys and is also unlikely to advance to the next round after having an even 2-2 card, pending the results of his last game yesterday. Cajigan is behind three players and only the Top 2 in his pool will move into the semis.

The 15-year-old CNMI player got off to a slow start last Monday, losing to Guam U18 player Christian Penafiel, 0-6, 0-6, and Kiribati's Tito Tebatibunga, 6-4, 4-6, 2-6. Cajigan then redeemed himself last Tuesday after winning over Tahiti's Reynald Taaroa, 6-3, 6-2, and Samoa's Harley Cronin, 6-0, 6-2. The Commonwealth player was slated to battle American Samoa's Kevin Maukolao in the last pool game yesterday.

LOPEZ

From Page 24

based on their 2011performance in the POJC.

Unfortunately, all five CNMI bets failed to move past the first round of the Junior ITF event.

In the girls draw, Lopez was shown the exit door early after bowing to unranked Noelleda Ah San of Australia last Monday, 2-6, 2-3. Rastguiy also dropped her Junior ITF debut, losing to New Caledonia's Assya Trimari, 3-6, 2-6, while Minor had the toughest opening round foe, falling to the second-seeded Danielle Wagland of Australia, 1-6, 0-6.

Lopez was relegated to the consolation draw where she won one game against Papua New Guinea's Lorish Puluspene. The PNG player edged Lopez in the opening set of their match last Tuesday, 7-5, but the CNMI bet stole the win after sweeping the last two sets, 6-4, 10-5. Lopez had her second game last Tuesday and lost to Australia's Annabelle Andrinopoulos, 1-6, 1-6.

Minor and Rastguiy also fell in the consolation draw with the former bowing to PNG's Marcia Tere-Apisah, 6-7 (5), 0-6. Rastguiy gave Australia's Chanistha Ampornachariya quite a scare after winning the opening set, 6-4, before the latter eked out a 6-3, 10-7 triumph in the last two sets.

In the boys draw, Jones lost to Australia's Olly Sadler, 0-6, 0-6, while Miller also bowed to Gregory Jacobe after only two sets, 3-6, 2-6. Both CNMI bets played in the consolation draw and lost anew with Jones falling to the Federated States of Micronesia's Terry Rush, 6-7, 5-7, and Miller failing to survive a three-set game against the Norfolk Islands' James Elliott, 6-2, 3-6, 7-10.

NMIFA

From Page 24

on the field training will be held this Saturday. Saturday's session, which will still include a classroom discussion, will run from 8am to 4pm.

Then the penultimate training on Aug. 24 will be held anew at the NMIFA office, from 6pm to 8pm, while the second session at the pitch will take place on Aug. 25, from 8am to 4pm. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 24

Pagarao, Indalecio, and Castillo also found the back of the net in the second half to complete Shirley's domination of Xerox.

Baked Girls 4, Mellow Yellow 3

Baked Girls ended their campaign in the women's league on a winning note, downing Mellow Yellow last Saturday.

Coquino Teregeyo drilled a pair of goals in the second half to lead Baked Girls' victory. Cristy Villaflor also had twin goals for Mellow Yellow, making all of them in the first half for their 2-1 advantage. Anne Padilla nailed the lone goal for Baked Girls in the first 25 minutes of play.

Teregeyo then stepped up in the second half, while Cleo Nening added one to steal the win. Maile Aldrich gave Mellow Yellow its only goal in the final frame.

IT&E Awesome 4, Baked Girls 0

IT&E Awesome also earned a win in its last game of the season, blanking Baked Girls last Friday.

The victory was fourth in a row for IT&E Awesome, which had four different players scoring in its final game in the women's league. Ana Hilario and Jeralyn Castillo hit one goal apiece in the first half, while Marie Bucalig and Clarice Mendoza also drained one each in the second.

Meanwhile, the three other matches over the weekend were decided via forfeits.

In the boys U18, IT&E won over the no-show Mean Machine, while Shirley's and Wild Bill's got a free victories against IT&E in the men's division.

Wild Bill's finished the league undefeated in eight games and will be receiving the men's championship trophy in the awards ceremony set for tomorrow at 7:30pm at the TSL Sports Complex.

Joining Wild Bill's in the champions circle are boys U18's Astig Futsal and U14's IT&E.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division				
New York	69	47	.595	–
Baltimore	63	53	.543	6
Tampa Bay	63	53	.543	6
Boston	57	60	.487	12½
Toronto	55	61	.474	14
Central Division				
Chicago	63	52	.548	–
Detroit	62	55	.530	2
Cleveland	54	63	.462	10
Kansas City	50	65	.435	13
Minnesota	50	66	.431	13½
West Division				
Texas	67	48	.583	–
Oakland	61	54	.530	6
Los Angeles	61	56	.521	7
Seattle	54	64	.458	14½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division				
Washington	72	45	.615	–
Atlanta	67	49	.578	4½
New York	55	61	.474	16½
Philadelphia	54	62	.466	17½
Miami	52	65	.444	20
Central Division				
Cincinnati	70	46	.603	–
Pittsburgh	64	52	.552	6
St. Louis	63	53	.543	7
Milwaukee	52	63	.452	17½
Chicago	45	70	.391	24½
Houston	39	79	.331	32
West Division				
Los Angeles	64	53	.547	–
San Francisco	64	53	.547	–
Arizona	58	58	.500	5½
San Diego	52	66	.441	12½
Colorado	43	71	.377	19½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Ackerman advances to semis in Fiji

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI junior tennis player Tammy Ackerman secured a semis seat in the ITF Oceania Plate 2012 after going unbeaten in the first two days of the competition at the Dr. Robin Mitchell Regional Tennis Centre in Lautoka, Fiji.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tammy Ackerman, seen here competing in the 2011 CNMI Junior Championships at the AMP tennis court went 3-0 in the first two days of the ITF Oceania Plate 2012 in Fiji.

Ackerman held a 3-0 record after last Monday and Tuesday's games and was aiming for a Senior Girls Pool A sweep against Fiji's Ruby Coffin yesterday. The 13-year-old Ackerman, who also advanced to the semis of the U15 singles in the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships last week, cruised to a 6-0, 6-1 win in her first game in the ITF Oceania Plate last Monday. Ackerman had back-to-back games in the opening day and survived teammate Carol Lee in a three-set match, 7-5, 2-6, 7-5. Then last Tuesday, the former Saipan Community School student went 3-0 after stunning the top-seeded Loloma Ripley of Samoa, 6-3, 7-5.

With her perfect mark and 6-1 sets won/loss record, pending yesterday's results, Ackerman is assured of a spot in the Top 2 in Pool A and will play in today's semifinal round. Ripley (3-1) and Coffin

See ACKERMAN on Page 23

Lopez, Rastguiy join Junior ITF event

Rastguiy

Lopez

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth's U15 players Negahr Rastguiy and Mikayla Lopez earned slots to the main draw of the 2012 Oceania Closed Junior Championships, bringing the CNMI's entries to the Junior ITF event to five.

The two U15 players joined U18's Thea Minor, Rafael Jones, and Christian Miller in the tournament in Lautoka, Fiji. Having five players in the B2 event of the Junior ITF Circuit is the most the CNMI had in years. Last year, only Miller and Minor made it to the main draw of the boys and girls singles, while Jones managed to compete only in the doubles draw.

Rastguiy and Lopez qualified to the Junior ITF event after advancing to the finals of the U15 singles of the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships, while the three others earned entries

See LOPEZ on Page 23

Shirley's wins women's futsal crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shirley's Coffee Shop was crowned champion in the women's division of the 2012 Saipan Soccer School Summer Futsal League last Saturday after shutting out Xerox, 7-0, at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

Last Saturday was the final day of the double-round robin competition in the futsal league with Shirley's finishing on top of the six-team field with its 7-2-1 win-draw-loss record. The newly crowned champion defeated Wild Bill's, which earned a 6-2-2 card. Xerox placed third with its 5-1-4 card, followed by Baked Girls (4-1-5), IT&E Awesome (4-1-5), and Mellow Yellow (0-1-9).

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Shirley's Coffee Shop's Charlene Lizardo, center, and Nola Hix, right, battle for the ball during the last day of the SSS women's futsal league last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Going into the last day of the women's league, Shirley's needed only a draw to clinch the crown, however Irish Pagarao and company would not settle for a tie, as they attacked Xerox's defense early en route to the shutout victory. Pagarao drew first blood with a left cross in the third minute while Jeraldine Castillo scored from the opposite end two minutes later. Yvonne Indalecio and Dianne Pablo also made it to the scoreboard in the first half for their 4-0 halftime lead.

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 23

NMIFA basic referee clinic starts today

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will kick off its five-day certified basic referee clinic today at the NMIFA office located on the third floor of the TSL Plaza in Beach Road, Garapan.

NMIFA general secretary Ed Salas in a brief telephone interview yesterday said that so far 13 individuals have registered for the clinic that will continue on Aug. 17, 18, 24, and 25.

"We expect the number to grow before the clinic starts tonight, as we need more people helping out in our program," Salas said.

He added that individuals who will complete the basic referee clinic will be allowed to officiate in NMIFA's non-competitive leagues and then after joining other clinics, they may be elevated to competitive leagues. NMIFA holds non-competitive leagues in U6, U8, U10, and U12 age groups, while its competitive leagues feature players in the U15, U18, men's, and women's divisions.

Today's basic clinic is free and is open to individuals in the 14-and-above age group. Members of the NMIFA Referee Committee will conduct the clinic that will start with a theoretical session from 6pm to 8pm today. The classroom-like session will continue tomorrow at the same time, while the first

See NMIFA on Page 23